

GOODBYE TO THE REBEL HEART
What the deal means for the Irish in Britain
COMMENT, PAGE 21

TROUBLE AT THE MET
Opera's golden couple go to war in New York
THE EYE

JOHN LYTTLE: THE NEW HOMOPHOBIA
Why liberal gay bashing is the rage
THE EYE

KEVIN SPACEY'S LONDON CONFIDENTIAL
Paul Taylor on an epic theatre debut
THE EYE

United's bid for Stam stutters

THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 16 April 1998 45p (R50p) No 3,586

Orange Order says 'no' to peace

By David McKelrick
Ireland Correspondent

THE ORANGE Order yesterday dealt a major blow to David Trimble's hopes of persuading the Unionist family to endorse the Northern Ireland peace agreement when it overwhelmingly rejected the new accord.

130 members of the Order's Grand Lodge voted strongly against the deal in Belfast, in a move which will cause concern not just for the Ulster Unionist Party leader but for all the parties who subscribed to last week's agreement.

The decisiveness of the rejection

casts doubt on the outcome of this Saturday's key meeting of the Ulster Unionist Council, his party's governing body, many of whose members are also Orangemen. Mr Trimble must win the Council's support for the deal.

If he does not, then the entire accord will fail, since as the largest Unionist grouping in Northern Ireland, his party is a vital element of the deal stitched together by Tony Blair, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern and eight of Northern Ireland's parties.

Observers say Mr Trimble may have to resign in the event of a defeat at the council. An anti-agree-

ment vote there would plunge Northern Ireland into profound political uncertainty, since no one knows what would happen if the agreement should suffer defeat in such a manner.

The anti-agreement forces elsewhere in the Unionist spectrum were also highly visible yesterday as it was confirmed that six of the 10 UUP MPs oppose the deal.

The Rev Martin Smyth, a senior MP who formerly headed the Orange Order, returned from a trip abroad to say: "I certainly am sceptical about the whole drift of the agreement. At this moment I could not see

myself enthusiastically engaged in a campaign for 'yes'."

The Democratic Unionist Party leader, the Rev Ian Paisley, meanwhile formally launched the DUP's frontal assault on the deal, which he denounced as treachery and betrayal.

Orange Order grand secretary John McCrea said after the five-hour meeting that Orangemen had voted against the deal because of major concern over the core issues of prisoners, decommissioning and policing, saying they opposed "a virtual amnesty for weapons and prisoners".

In this the Orangemen appear to reflect the widespread Unionist view

that the most worrying parts of the agreement are not the north-south body, which was thought to be its most controversial element, but rather the intention to release most paramilitary prisoners within two years.

There are also fears that the international commission proposed to consider future policing might produce findings damaging to the RUC. Another major worry is the fear that Sinn Féin leaders might end up in a new executive without the IRA decommissioning its weapons.

Some headline Orange elements wanted to go even further in rejecting the agreement. Joel Panon, of the

militant "Spirit of Drumcree" group, left the meeting saying he was disgusted that the Order had not given a stronger lead to Protestants.

On the pro-side of the argument, meanwhile, the non-sectarian Alliance Party launched its campaign for a yes vote in the 22 May referendum. Its leader, Lord Alderdice, said: "Many Unionist anxieties are being whipped up by unscrupulous and self-seeking people who are desperate to maintain division and discord. These concerns are misplaced."

Mr Paisley claimed thousands of Unionists who were not members of his party had already vowed to op-

pose the settlement. He added: "The deal put together by David Trimble and Gerry Adams and the rest of the talks participants is worse than the Anglo Irish Agreement, more treacherous than the framework document and poses far greater dangers to the union than the Sunningdale Agreement ever did."

Speaking from Madrid, Tony Blair said: "I hope people in Northern Ireland turn away from those voices that are simply always going to say no ... the ones who do that have very little to offer."

Hume interview, page 10
Leading article, page 20

More artists than artisans in Britain by year 2006

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

WELL-meaning parents should advise their children to head for the stage - or the screen, the music business, design, journalism or professional sport. The creative professions will be the fastest-growing source of new jobs between now and 2006, says a report published today.

The report's moral is that young people should be aiming high. Modern Britain offers better prospects in acting or football than in hairdressing or secretarial work.

The increase in demand for people with literary, artistic and sporting skills will even outpace the need for more computer programmers and lawyers, two other high-growth categories of employment. By the year 2006, there are likely to be nearly as many hives as construction workers in Britain and they will also outnumber engineers or security guards.

Within a decade there will be twice as many "creative professionals" as car workers or doctors. Their number is predicted to rise by 5 per cent a year, outstripping growth in all other job categories.

Those predictions, based on detailed economic forecasts by the consultancy Business Strategies, show that "Cool Britannia" is not entirely a myth, according to co-author Nick Stewart. "The creative sector is an important source of jobs, many of which are well paid," he said.

The report, *Different jobs, different lives*, says other recent research in painting an upbeat

picture of future employment demand. It sees much of the increase in demand for workers in well-paid managerial and professional occupations.

By 2001, there will be 4.5m managers, 2.6m professionals, such as doctors and lawyers, and another 2.9m "associate professionals", such as legal executives and computer programmers. These are the highest-paid categories, with average earnings ranging up to £569 a week for a male manager.

These occupations demand the highest level of qualifications, with four-fifths of professionals and a third of managers and administrators having degrees or the equivalent. The report predicts, however, that managers will find it hard to stay at the top of the pay-league, with many of the "associate professionals", including the luvvies, likely to overtake them.

Demand in some lower-paid jobs is also expected to grow. BSL forecasts 2.7m in occupations such as healthcare assistants and catering. The number working in childcare is also expected to increase significantly to nearly half a million by 2006.

But traditional craft and manual jobs will shrink in number. Within three years there will be only just over 3m in the traditional manufacturing craft-related occupations, and even demand for secretaries and hairdressers is falling.

The number of hairdressers and beauticians is forecast to fall to 85,000 in 2006 from 99,000 in 1981, Mr Stewart said. "Long-term prospects are often poor and turnover rates are high."

Iraqi girl begins her life-or-death journey to UK



Mariam Hamza, four, is carried by her father onto a plane for London yesterday, where she will receive treatment for leukaemia. Report, page 2; feature, page 19. Photograph: EPA

Vauxhall boss tells workers: I'll give up pay for a year

By Steve Boggan

THE £160,000-a-year head of Vauxhall, who has vowed to work free for a year if employees accept a small pay rise, could recoup his lost salary in bonuses next year if the deal goes through.

Nick Reilly, 49, chairman and managing director, wrote to 10,000 employees yesterday promising to forego his basic salary if they accepted a 2.5 per cent increase. Workers at the company's factories in Luton, Bedfordshire, and Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, were split in their reaction to his offer.

In what the Confederation of British Industry described as the first offer of its kind, Mr Reilly said eight directors would take a pay cut, 25 senior executives would have their pay frozen and he would reduce his £160,000 basic salary to zero for a year if they accepted the pay deal.

Vauxhall is being squeezed in Europe because of a fall in demand. General Motors factories in Russelsheim, Germany, and Antwerp, Belgium, which make the Vectra, have been assured of their future, but the British end of the operation could be hit by overcapacity.

Mr Reilly's letter was designed to demonstrate to workers that directors, too, were prepared to tighten their belts. However, when asked whether Mr Reilly's bonuses next year would reflect a successful pay deal this year - resulting in his basic salary being recouped - a company spokesman said: "It may be possible because of productivity bonuses."

If he had made the same "sacrifice" last year, Mr Reilly would still have made almost £90,000. According to company accounts, he was paid a total



No pay: Nick Reilly

One worker, who refused to be named, said: "He is president of five other companies - is he giving up those salaries, too? No-one is particularly impressed by this offer. If he couldn't afford it, he wouldn't do it. All we know is that we earn so little that we couldn't afford to give up one penny."

Mr Reilly was in talks with unions yesterday and was not available to comment. Tony Woodley, chief Vauxhall negotiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "This is not the time for gestures. I only wish Vauxhall workers could afford a pay cut like this, but that is not on the agenda."

If you knew how much you're being overcharged for life cover, the shock could kill you.

If you took out your life cover a while ago either to protect your mortgage or your family's lifestyle, you could be paying well over the odds.

But now that Direct Line provides life cover, you don't have to pay through the nose anymore. In fact, in only 10 minutes, you could be enjoying the same protection you enjoy now, for a much smaller monthly cost.

All it takes is one call - we'll even fill the forms for you. If you want life cover at a price that won't shock you, call Direct Line today.



0845 3000 233

Call anytime 8am to 8pm weekdays and 9am to 5pm Saturdays.

A dose of Prozac could be your dog's best friend

By Charles Arthur
Science and Technology Editor

WITH UNHAPPY adults delighted by Prozac and hyperactive children calmed by Ritalin, drugs companies have discovered a new sector in need of pharmaceutical help to get through the day. Dogs, writes Charles Arthur, Science Editor. With fewer dogs actually working, and more and more people leaving them be-

hind while they go off to work, a growing number of the UK's 6.5 million dogs are believed to suffer from "separation anxiety" - a psychological fear that they have been abandoned.

But since most dogs have problems with conventional psychiatric treatment - they find talking difficult, and are forbidden from lying on the couch - the Swiss pharmaceuticals company Novartis has stepped forward.

Yesterday after a decade of effort the company received Europe-wide approval for a drug to treat canine separation anxiety - a problem that it claims affects up to 15 per cent of dogs of all breeds.

"It might sound strange that dogs would suffer from anxiety," commented Beverly Cuddy, managing editor of *Dogs Today* magazine yesterday. "But a dog is a pack animal. If you keep a single dog it regards you as its 'pack'. Then

it gets very upset when your routine changes - say if you start going to work. The dog doesn't feel able to cope on its own and becomes terrified at being alone."

Such dogs will howl, chew furniture, soil the house and even mutilate themselves. Novartis's solution is two-fold: a drug treatment lasting between 60 and 90 days, costing about 40 pence per day, and behavioural treatment, which is free (but comes with

the drug). With 6.5 million dogs in the UK alone, the potential market is huge.

Chemically the drug, named Clomicalm, works in exactly the same way as Prozac: it sustains high brain levels of serotonin - the neurotransmitter associated with a "happy" state of mind. "It makes the dog more accessible to behavioural treatment," said the spokesman.

"The owner should have guidelines and rules for how

they treat the dog before and after they arrive home." Ms Cuddy said. "This isn't a miracle drug - the main problem tends not to be the dog, but the owner, whose lifestyle perhaps doesn't support a pet."



9 770951 946542

Mothers warned over HIV midwife

Maternity hospitals in Cambridge, Berkshire, and Essex contact 60 women after health worker with virus is suspended

By Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

MOTHERS who had babies at three hospitals were being contacted yesterday after a midwife was diagnosed as HIV positive.

The midwife, who has not been named, was suspended from her job at the maternity unit at Adden-

brooke's Hospital, Cambridge, after telling her employers that she was infected with the virus. The hospital said 43 mothers who were patients in the Rosie Maternity Unit and were treated by the midwife had been contacted and offered blood tests.

The midwife also worked briefly at Wexham Park Hospital, Slough, where 15 mothers were being contacted and at Princess Alexandra

Hospital in Harlow, Essex, where two mothers were being contacted.

Health experts said the risk of infection was "very low". The virus is only passed by blood-to-blood contact and there has only been one definite case in the world of transmission during a medical procedure when a French orthopaedic surgeon infected a patient. An earlier case in which a Florida dentist

was said to have infected up to half a dozen patients has not been confirmed.

The woman was a student midwife at Wexham Park from November 1988 until May 1990, at Addenbrooke's from September 1995 to November 1997 before returning in January this year, and at Harlow for four weeks in late 1997.

All the hospitals involved began

immediate searches to find mothers they believe had a risk of infection.

Department of Health guidelines outline three surgical procedures which the midwife may have carried out as having a risk - giving a local anaesthetic, stitching after delivery and if a baby has a clip on its head to monitor its heart during delivery. Women who did not undergo those procedures would

not be contacted, the hospitals said.

Senior midwives at Addenbrooke's worked throughout Easter to review all birth registers and shift rosters, looking for evidence of the three procedures and the members of staff who were working. Consultant physician Chris Carne, clinical director for specialist medicine, said: "I want every mother who has had a baby at the Rosie to be assured that

the risk of acquiring an infection from a midwife is extremely low - there has never been a case reported in the world."

A Department of Health spokeswoman said there had been a number of similar scares in the last few years, but there had been no cases where a patient had become ill.

A helpline has been set up for concerned mothers on 0800 1001343.

A thoroughly modern winner as bodice rippers grow up

By Andrew Buncombe

SUBS: please liaise with In The News on Romantic Fiction.

ANGELA LAMBERT'S story of two family members falling "desperately in love" only to be divided by tragedy, yesterday won the Romantic Novel of the Year award.

Kiss and Kin, tells - according to the blurb - of family life and the interlocking relationships based on blood and love.

Her fifth novel, it was enough to win Ms Lambert the award from a shortlist which included tales of illegitimate pregnancies, divorce and illicit mistresses. They might not sound like the staple of your romantic novel, but the genre is apparently changing.

"I think that people still associate romantic fiction with Barbara Cartland, who really represents the comic strip of fiction," said Ms Lambert, 58, a journalist and grandmother, who said her story was a parallel of Romeo and Juliet, in which the older members fall in love.

"Just as society has changed so has fiction. It is not enough to write a story about trying to steer some virgin towards the altar - that would be ridiculous.

"As the circumstances in which people fall in love have changed so has romantic fiction."

Commenting on the range of titles included in the shortlist, Angela Arney, chairman of the Romantic Novelists' Association, said modern romance was not all heavy bosoms.

"In the end, all the great stories have a love element and this year's shortlist approached the theme of romance in a variety of styles and from a range of angles."

Ian Blair, who, writing under the name Emma Blair, was shortlisted for his novel Flower of Scotland, added: "Romantic fiction covers a huge area. What about War and Peace by Tolstoy: is that a romantic novel?"

"People think they know what romantic fiction is and the critics don't usually bother to review us, but we are heavily read."

Sales figures appear to bear out Mr. or Mrs. Blair's opinion. Up to 60 per cent of all books bought in Britain could be classified as romantic fiction.



Angela Lambert, winner of the Romantic Novel of the Year award

IN THE NEWS ROMANTIC FICTION

PEOPLE MAY be quick to knock it, but romantic fiction accounts for six of every ten books bought in Britain, writes Andrew Buncombe.

From the prolific output of Mills & Boon and its stories of dark, handsome strangers, to the "romantic histories" set in the last century running to trilobites or more, the genre is so prevalent that the books are included on Cultural Studies courses.

Over the years romantic fiction has seamlessly progressed from Dame Barbara Cartland's gentle-paced and straight-laced stories to Jilly Cooper's steamy tales of showjumpers, invariably called Rupert, and accompanied by a cover photograph of a jodhpur-encased buttock and a riding crop, through to the upfront soft-porn sold under evocative titles such as *Black Saint*.

"I think the progression has been continual," said Professor David Trotter, head of English at University College London, who does not include any such bodice-rippers on his courses.

"Barbara Cartland really writes versions of books that were around at the turn of the century, so it is natural that things have progressed."

He said that the appeal of romantic fiction was both its consumable nature and the allure of illicit sex.

"There has always been a whiff of perversion about them. The readers like it when the riding crop gets brought out even though they know everything will be all right at the end of the day," he said.

But while Professor Trotter admitted that the books have huge appeal, he has no plans to start asking his students to study them.

"There is just so much better stuff to look at," he said.

While the upper echelons of the literary world may despise romantic fiction, those working in the genre claim they are the victims of unfounded prejudice.

So what counts as Romantic Fiction? Which of these extracts could be included? (Answers below.)

A "Natasha at that moment felt so softened and tender that it was not enough for her to love and know that she was loved. She wanted now, at once, to embrace the man she loved, to speak and hear from him words of love such as filled her heart."

B "Dinner was even more eccentric than it had been the previous evening. Roz had told Kate to wear a dressing gown and nothing else."

C "She went on bouncing on him, riding - a wilful mare - arms out, racing onto her heights and fell on him and they went on moving into one another, daring the crests."

"We are used to critics being snuffy about us," said Angela Arney, chairman of the Romantic Novelists' Association.

"I don't know why it is. Perhaps it's because most of us are women while most of the journalists and critics are men."

But there are men, too, among the love-and-lace authors. Scotsman Ian Blair, 55, writes under the name Emma Blair, a decision taken by his publishers more than 20 years ago.

"At the time they decided that it would be much easier to sell romantic fiction if it was written - at least apparently - by a woman," he said.

"We all have our male and female characteristics and I think that Emma Blair is the woman I would have been if I had not been born a man."

"When I sit down to write I write as Emma and I write as a woman, but no, I don't get dressed up in a twin set and pearls before I sit down to work."

"It can cause some fun though when I turn up at a party or something and people are expecting to see Emma Blair and instead in rolls this six-foot Scotsman who looks like he has come straight from the rugby field."

Barbara Cartland, the grand pink dame of romantic fiction, who has had 687 of her romances published, said the attraction of the genre was universal.

"Everybody wants love. It does not matter if you are a king or a queen or a lower person, you want love. That is why people want to read about it, they don't want to read about all the horrible things in life."

Dame Barbara remains unashamedly rooted in the more traditional form of romantic fiction.

"I have sold 500 million books but I don't sell very well in England because I refuse to write about sex."

"Can you imagine your grandfather or my grandfather going on about all the people they had jumped into bed with? Of course, they had relationships but they didn't talk about it all the time. Nowadays it is on the front page of the newspaper every morning."

ANSWERS:
A From Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* completed in 1856.
B From *The 69 Club* by Scott Owen, a "sexplosion" of raunchy action.
C From *Dangerous Love* by Booker prize winner Ben Okri.

Japanese TV pays for Mona Lisa's new look

By Adam LeBar in Paris

NOW SHOWING at the Louvre in Paris: the *Mona Lisa*, brought to you by Nippon Television.

To a background of haughty sniffs by France's artistic establishment, the world's most famous painting is finally to be housed in its own dedicated room, sponsored by NTV, one of Japan's leading private television channels, paying 25 million francs (£2.5m) for the privilege.

But despite the size of NTV's donation - the largest single act of French artistic sponsorship - there will be nothing so vulgar as even a company logo on display. NTV's name will merely be carved on a plaque on the doorway to the new room, and will be added to the roll of honour that lists major donors in the Louvre's Napoleon Hall.

Which is quite enough recognition, say the artistic grandees of Paris. NTV was refused a request to have its own state-room in the Louvre named after it, reported *Le Monde*. "But the prestige of the biggest museum in the world is without doubt sufficient for the donor," said the newspaper.

The donation symbolised the chill winds of economic reality blowing through the corridors of France's museums, said commentators. "This is a change for curators as well, for whom, previously, only public money did not smell," added *Le Monde*.

The *Mona Lisa* is currently housed in the Denon wing of the Louvre Palace, where it shares wall space with dozens of other masterpieces. Visitors must fight their way through the crush of onlookers that surrounds the picture to get a glimpse of the work.

"It's very difficult to see the *Mona Lisa* now, because of the crowds in front of it and because of all the other paintings in the same room," said Patricia Moudier, of the Louvre's corporate communications department. "This is a very important donation. French people cannot imagine how fascinated the Japanese are by their art."

The new room is planned to open in 2001, after an architecture competition to take place next year, and the *Mona Lisa* will remain visible for the duration of the works.

A recent exhibition of French 18th century paintings in Tokyo and Kyoto which attracted nearly a million visitors helped trigger NTV's interest in sponsoring French culture.

Safety row leaves 'train of death' with nowhere to go

By David Osborne in New York

THE UNITED STATES Navy is in a quandary over a train-load of Vietnamese napalm - the noxious substance used in combat to incinerate swathes of enemy territory - now believed to be chugging through the Oklahoma countryside.

The train is carrying 12,000 tonnes of napalm loaded at the weekend from a Navy dump in San Diego, California, and bound for Pollution Control Industries based in East Chicago on the Indiana-Illinois border for incineration.

Pollution Controls specialises in the elimination of dangerous wastes and recently signed a contract to dispose of no less than 3.3 million tonnes of napalm

that the Navy has been storing in San Diego for 20 years.

Apparent under political pressure from Midwestern members of the US Congress, Pollution Controls has now reneged on the contract. The train is allegedly still rolling, but it is not clear where it will be sent. The only plausible destination now would be back to where it came from in San Diego.

The Navy insists that the incineration procedure is safe and denies that residents in East Chicago face any risk.

"We're committed to this project because it is a safe and responsible project," said Navy Lt-Cdr Jon Smith in Washington.

"We are examining all our options."

Public concern over napalm clearly dates from the substance's horrific ef-

fects during the Vietnam War. Most vivid in many American minds is a famous Associated Press photograph of a naked young Vietnamese girl fleeing from her village during the war with her village behind her, set alight by napalm.

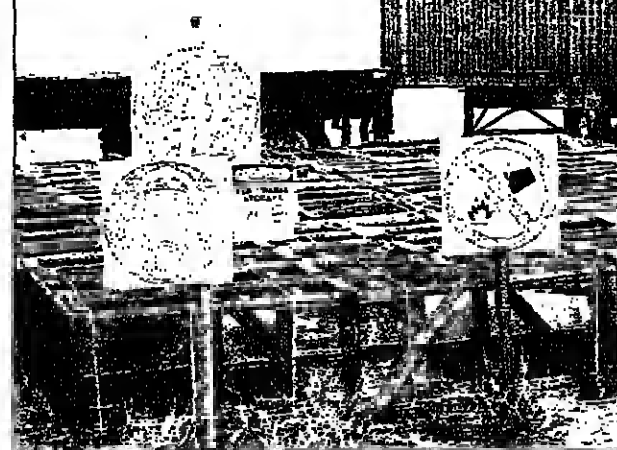
The chief of Pollution Controls, Robert Campbell, has been quoted as saying that he sought out the \$2.5m contract with the Navy because converting napalm did not, on the face of it, seem especially problematic.

This week, however, he has changed his tune. "We have been subject to an emotionally charged political confrontation that has toyed with the facts. The situation has simply become too volatile and is jeopardising our good relationships with our customers

and residents of this community."

The stand-off is sparking a furious row in Washington between representatives from California, who want to see the napalm out of their state, and others from Illinois who have been among those pressuring Pollution Controls to back out of the contract.

The Navy decided something had to be done about the napalm in its San Diego warehouse after it discovered that some of the containers were beginning to leak, threatening the surrounding environment. When the shipment became public on Tuesday, the Navy indicated that the train was somewhere in the New Mexico desert. Assuming it was still rolling, it should have been around the Texas-Oklahoma border by last night.



Deadly cargo: Napalm awaiting shipment Photograph: AP

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. C101

Midland mortgages are subject to security and status. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate life policies.

What types of mortgage are there?

How much can we borrow?

What is the difference between fixed and variable interest rates?

What if something goes wrong after we move in?

Four questions you need answered before buying a home.

There are five stages to buying a home. For answers to your questions, pick up a step by step guide from any Midland Bank or see the mortgage specialist there.

Midland Bank
Member HSBC Group

For your free home buying guide, complete and return the coupon to: Midland Bank plc, FREEPOST WWH 1562, Manchester M14 5AL

Mr/Ms/Mr/Ms/Other (please specify):
Initials:
Surname:
House name/number:
Street:
Town:
County:
Postcode:

Daytime tel no (inc STD):
Evening tel no (inc STD):

Are you looking to move before August? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick)
Are you a first time buyer? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick). Are you a Midland customer? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick). If so please supply your sort code I would like to be contacted by a Midland mortgage specialist. ☐ Are you happy to receive information from Midland in the future? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick).

After the floods, the April freeze

By Linus Gregoriadis
and Alistair Clay

A COLD front descended over much of Britain last night as the unseasonable weather continued to bring misery and disruption.

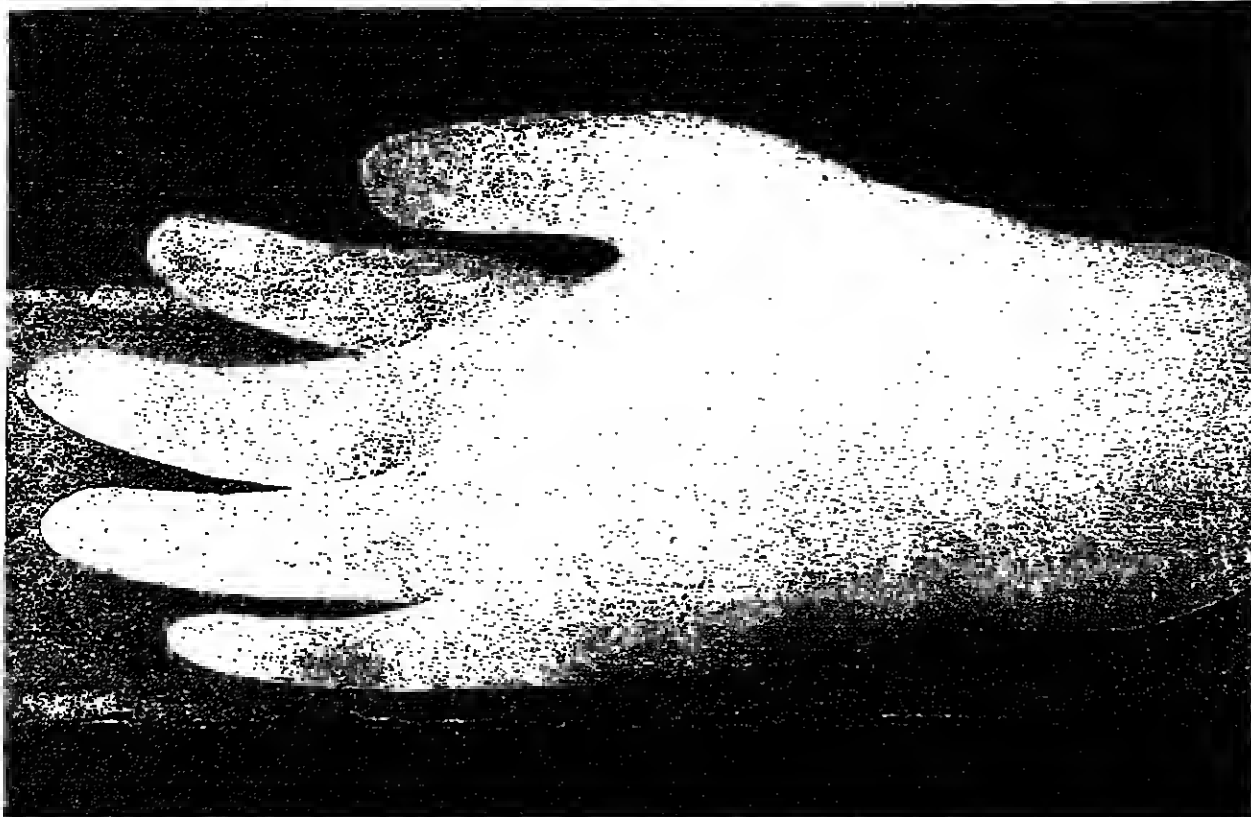
Thousands of homes in Cheshire and north Wales were left without electricity yesterday after heavy snow brought down power lines, and more flood warnings were announced in East Anglia and the Midlands.

The heaviest snowfall recorded was in Flintshire, north Wales, where 30cm fell on higher ground.

Although the worst of the weather is now believed to have passed, further snow showers were forecast for today and it is expected to remain chilly throughout the weekend.

A spokesman for the PA Weather Centre said: "It will become gradually less cold over the next few days, but I don't see any real warmth over the weekend."

"Temperatures will still be below average, although it must be remembered it is the first time they have been below average this year."



Coldfinger: A hand sculpted from snow seen yesterday morning on a wall in Dalston, east London

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Experts warned that the torrential Easter downpours had not averted the possibility of droughts this year.

Water UK, a body which represents regional water companies, said that only 5 per cent of the deluge would find its way into natural underground storage. Water levels are said to be at their lowest since records began, with the danger of droughts particularly in the South-east and East Anglia.

Mr Beeby, a spokesman for Water UK, said: "What we really need is the traditional British summer of old, rather than the freak weather which has caused so much damage and distress."

"What we really need now is gentle rain throughout the whole of April if we are to get the underground water levels back up to anything near a reasonable level."

A 52-year-old man found drowned at a caravan site when flash floods swept through the Midlands last week was yesterday named as Carl John. His

body was discovered at the site in the village of Wyre Piddle on the river Mead in Worcestershire on Friday.

In Greater Manchester chil-

dren throwing snowballs are thought to have caused a five-car pile-up in on the A627 Oldham Way bypass on Tuesday.

In a separate incident police blamed heavy snow and high winds for the death of a motorcyclist killed in Cheshire. Amazingly, water compa-

Old people 'determined to live life to the full'

OLD AGE does little to dampen the youthful spirit, according to a new research.

A survey of 1,000 elderly people aged 60-80 found half had unfulfilled ambitions ranging from bungee-jumping to visiting Antarctica. The single thing that most irritated them was the patronising attitude of "idiots" who said they could not do things because of their age.

Seven out of ten said they did not themselves feel elderly and more than half of those could not name an age that they would regard as old. Nine out of ten said getting older did not mean having to give up pleasures such as flying a Spitfire and conducting an orchestra in the Albert Hall.

"I am weary," said one respondent. Not with old age, but with the cult of youth.

Ex-priest 'abused 17 boys'

A FORMER Catholic priest accused of sexually abusing 17 boys during an eight-year reign of terror at an orphanage was yesterday described as a "torturer" by one of his alleged victims.

Eric Taylor is accused of abusing children at the Father Hudson's Orphanage, in Coleshill, Warwickshire, between 1957-65. Warwick Crown Court was told his victims were beaten by him if they complained. One alleged victim said he had been abused since he was seven. He said: "As a child I had no one. I was a kid who would seek love and attention from wherever it came. That happened to be from my torturer. He was the only one who did show me love. But this love was, of course, abuse."

Mr Taylor, 78, of Aston-By-Stone, Staffordshire, denies 17 counts of indecent assault and five counts of buggery.

Englishman wins race case

AN ENGLISHMAN has been awarded £3,000 after winning the first racial abuse case to be heard in Northern Ireland.

Oxford-born Mark Robins moved to Northern Ireland in 1989 and joined Nortul, a textiles firm based in Antrim. Mr Robins, 35, who only has one eye after a road accident, told a tribunal that a small number of the plant's workers had written abuse in log books and on walls. There were also verbal taunts about his disability and the fact that he is English.

It is a landmark case in Northern Ireland where discrimination and racial abuse was not illegal until legislation was passed in August last year - 20 years after the rest of the UK.

Lockerbie hopes

FRESH proposals to break the deadlock over the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing are to be relayed to Libya, British relatives' leader Dr Jim Swire said yesterday.

He said the secretary-general of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, has agreed to act as intermediary in forwarding the finely-tuned proposals to Libya.

Dr Swire, speaking in Cairo after a meeting with Mr Meguid, declined to disclose details of the "fine-tuning". But he said the main elements of the proposal - a neutral country trial of the two Libyan suspects, conducted before an international panel of judges using Scottish legal procedures - remained unchanged.

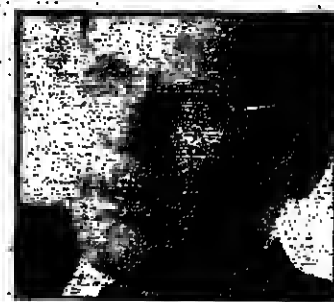
Hillsborough fight goes on

THE FAMILIES of the 96 people who died in the Hillsborough tragedy vowed yesterday to continue to fight for a new public inquiry on the ninth anniversary of the disaster. About 4,000 people were at Liverpool Football Club's stadium to hear families group chairman Trevor Hicks attack the Government for not acting after the Hillsborough investigation ordered by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, last year. Mr Hicks, who lost two daughters, said: "We are not going away... we will do everything necessary to conclude this unfinished business."

Apology for 'Titanic' hero

THE MAKERS of the film *Titanic* have apologised for their portrayal of the doomed liner's first officer, William Murdoch, as a cowardly murderer when he was in fact a hero. The executive vice-president of 20th Century Fox, Scott Newson, went to the Scottish town of Dalbeattie yesterday to apologise to Murdoch's relatives and donate £5,000 to a memorial fund.

Listen to this man



The 1998 McCormick Lecture

Martin Sorrell is Group Chief Executive of WPP Group, which in 1997 generated a group annual turnover of £7.3bn. Under his leadership WPP has become the world's leading communications services group, employing 22,000 people, within 30 companies, in 90 countries.

In recent years the role of WPP Group has expanded from one of traditional holding company to value added parent company, adding distinct value to clients and even greater opportunities and rewards for its people. By adding value to the centre WPP believe they can demonstrate tangible results.

Martin Sorrell is also an enthusiastic supporter of The Association of MBAs and as a part of the McCormick Lecture series, will be giving a talk explaining how WPP is working to ensure that for them, the whole adds up to more than the sum of its parts. The talk will be held on April 20th, 1998.

Sponsored by

THE INDEPENDENT

To order tickets or to find out more please call:

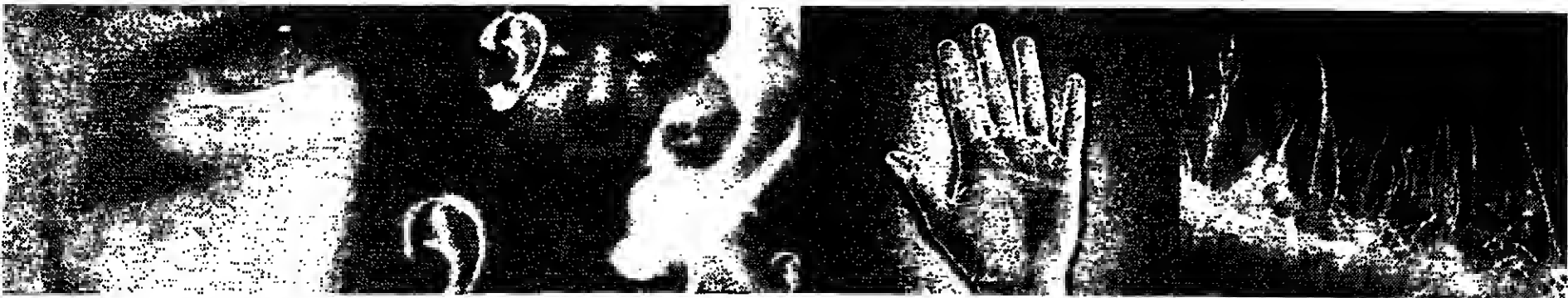
0171 837 3375



The Mondeo Verona
with air conditioning.

A cool £14,020 on the road.*

- Air conditioning
- 15" Alloy wheels
- Quickclear heated front windscreen
- Driver's airbag
- Metallic paint
- 1.8 litre 16v Zetec engine
- Remote control central double locking
- Immobiliser and perimeter alarm
- Free insurance**
- 0% finance or Options at 8.9% APR**



0345 111 777 www.ford.co.uk



BRINGS YOU TO YOUR SENSES.

*Subject to availability. Price based on Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price.

**Insurance and Finance subject to status and conditions. 0% finance 50% minimum deposit. Written Quotations Ford Credit Europe plc, PO Box 46, Brentwood, CM13 3AR. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Excludes fleets and certain business users. Vehicles must be registered by May 22, 1998.

مکان الامتحان



No raves for embassy parties

GORDON BROWN and Clare Short are in Washington today. Some local British businessmen hope to make their ears ring with criticism about the British embassy and its huge 550 staff.

The new ambassador, Sir Christopher Meyer, hit the ground partying, says one of Pandora's sources, a British journalist who insists on remaining anonymous. "He's a nice chap, his wife's very popular, but he's surrounded by Sioane Rangers and Hooray Henrys out of Sixties Britain. Their favourite topic of discussion is how difficult it is to get their Etonian sons into Oxbridge." Another source claims that there has been a series of leaks to the American press from the embassy ever since Labour won the election. Some diplomats are said to resent the way Tony Blair and Gordon Brown bypass the embassy and deal directly with the White House and the Treasury Department. In the meantime, Gordon Brown is said to be considering selling off a large number of prime Washington and Georgetown residential properties occupied by diplomats in an economy measure that could produce up to \$40m (£24m) for the Government. If that weren't unsettling enough, the embassy is due to have an official inspection and review in the autumn.

An MP's bumpy landing



LEMBIT OPIK, the Liberal Democrat MP and Evel Knievel of Westminster, injured himself when he was paragliding on Monday and remains in a Welsh hospital undergoing tests.

Pandora wishes him a very speedy recovery and hopes this accident will not diminish

Opiik's adventurous spirit. It shouldn't, for Opiik (left) has said that "I fell in love with flying ever since I fell out of a tree when I was seven."

Caffeine lobby in hot water

IF YOU are bored witless by the same old EC attacks on alcohol, tobacco and cannabis, you'll be glad to hear of the Health Police's latest offensive.

The Nation, a leading American liberal journal, has sounded a rousing call to battle: "They are pushing a drug on pre-adults, one that may have serious health consequences for a whole generation." It is caffeine and the "pushers" are soft-drink manufacturers and coffee bars. "There is evidence the caffeine lobby has borrowed a tactic or two from the nicotine gang." Yes, the Caffeine lobby! Pandora can hardly wait to see California make it a crime to drink cola in public. Even now, Yankee lawyers are rushing to be the first to win a multimillion-dollar law suit against some poor espresso-machine manufacturer.

Pandora



Peace at last: The coffins of Privates Frank King and George Anderson, together with an unidentified soldier all killed more than 80 years ago, are borne for burial yesterday in Monchy-le-Preux, northern France. The men, members of the 13th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, died on 11 April 1917 on the third day of the Battle of Arras. Their bodies were found in a mass grave by archeologists along with 24 other victims of the fight, in which the British sustained more than 150,000 casualties. Around 200 people attended the ceremony yesterday, including the Duke of Kent, who is Colonel in Chief of the Royal Fusiliers and Dr John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister. Photograph: Brian Harris

Bar foreign funds, says McAlpine

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

FOREIGN donations should be barred during a referendum on the single European currency, the former Treasurer of the Conservative Party has told an inquiry into political funding.

Lord McAlpine, now a senior member of the Referendum Movement, presided over a number of large foreign donations in his former role.

Now, though, he has written to Lord Neill, whose inquiry opened yesterday, to argue that a referendum should be an entirely British event.

Foreign companies and even the European Commission should be prevented from putting money into a British "yes" campaign, Lord McAlpine believes.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the peer, who stood down recently as chairman of the Referendum Movement but who remains on its board, said urgent decisions were needed on how the opposing sides should be funded.

Already, European Commission funding was being used to boost the case for a single currency, he said.

"We want a total ban on any

funding from abroad. It is for the nation to decide, not anyone outside. It should be money given by British companies or individuals," he said.

Lord McAlpine was Treasurer of the Conservative Party between 1975 and 1990. Among the foreign donors who made donations were John Latsis, the Greek shipping magnate, and Asil Nadir, head of Polly Peck, who later jumped bail on fraud charges. The peer later said the Conservatives should pay back Mr Nadir's money.

Lord McAlpine will give evidence to the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life on

the third day of its public hearings next Tuesday.

Yesterday, on the first day of hearings, the committee heard conflicting arguments over whether or not political parties should receive public funding.

Vernon Bogdanor, professor of government at the University of Oxford, said public funding would lead to greater probity in public life. Political parties would then rely less on company and trade union funds, he said.

There should also be limits on spending, he added. High spending meant a high demand for fundraising, and that was

bound to cause problems. "You will never convince people that someone who gives £1m to a political party hasn't got some ulterior motive," he said.

But Stuart Barrow, senior research economist with the Adam Smith Institute, said there should be no increase in the use of taxpayers' money to fund politics.

"We will not be saving a free society - our democracy - by rashly imposing more taxes or limiting the ability of people to put as much money as possible where their mouths are. If we want to re-establish a credible democratic system we must not

force taxpayers to feathered politicians," he said.

All the main political parties will give evidence to the committee, along with academics and pressure groups.

Among those who will appear will be Henry Drucker, a one-time fundraiser for the Labour Party. Yesterday he called for a ban on political billboard and newspaper advertising.

"One third of the money spent in 1997 was spent on billboard and newspaper advertisements. That doesn't inform the public. It misinforms the public," he said.

tessa asset

Whether you're a first-time saver, or want to re-invest maturing TESSA funds, consider a Halifax TESSA 2 account.

You'll get a great rate of tax-free interest over the next five years. And when it matures, you can easily transfer your money to an ISA.

7.71%

There's even a special bonus if you keep the account for the full five years.

So call now and open your TESSA 2 account. It could be a real asset. Call into your local branch or phone free for an information pack on 0800 10 11 10.



Get a little extra help.
www.halifax.co.uk

The maximum interest payable for Halifax TESSA 2 is 7.50% and you must be at least 18 to open one. You cannot have a joint TESSA. Interest rates may change. Interest can be withdrawn from a Halifax TESSA 2 before it matures apart from an amount equal to basic rate income tax on that interest. If other withdrawals are made, the account will no longer qualify as a TESSA. "Tax free" means free of income tax. An administration fee of £10 will be charged if a Halifax TESSA 2 is transferred to another financial institution. Full details and copies of the account conditions are available at any branch of Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2BG.

BT's ISDN can send a document direct to another computer, so you don't have to waste time printing it out.



Connect now from only £99.
Freefone 0800 800 800
or visit www.isdn.bt.com

Why not change the way we work? BT

Other ends 30.0p per line installed by 31.07.98. Example: Connection to BT's ISDN2 start-up package costs £99 (a VAT). Line rental and minimum contract periods apply.

Justice campaigner tries to lure Woodward lawyer



Barry Scheck (left), the lawyer for Louise Woodward, with whom David Jessel (right) is trying to link up with for a US version of *Trial & Error*



By Paul McCann
Media Editor

DAVID JESSEL, the miscarriage-of-justice campaigner, is trying to link up with an American version of *Trial & Error* TV programme.

Mr Scheck, who was also a member of the OJ Simpson defence team, is a law professor at the Cardozo Law School in New York and already runs a project with his students to help victims of the American justice system.

His Innocence Project has already freed 34 convicts in America using post-trial DNA testing. He is in Britain this week to address the Royal Society in Edinburgh about the privacy issues thrown up by DNA tests.

Mr Jessel, whose *Trial & Error* programme recently questioned the conviction of Danny McNamee, serving 25 years for the 1982 Hyde Park bombing, has arranged for Mr

Scheck to meet campaigning lawyers in the UK while he is here and is holding discussions about creating an American version of *Trial & Error*.

"What *Trial & Error* does is terrific," said Mr Scheck yesterday. "It would be great if we could get journalists involved in that way. In the past I just gave NBC stories for free. The lack of funding for poor people in court is more pronounced in the US. Nothing can guarantee the conviction of an innocent person more than a bad lawyer or one that lacks funds for research and expert witnesses."

Mr Jessel said: "Professor Scheck was fascinated by our work and the idea of getting television money to fund research into cases. He thinks it is something that could be taken overseas."

"We have had offers in the past to take a version of the programme to America, but the time has not been right, particularly for long investigative strands. Now I think the time

is right, because of the market there is for real-life courtroom programmes in America."

Trial & Error could work effectively in the US, says Mr Jessel, because the programme could use actual footage of the trial in action and would legally be able to interview judges and jurors.

"It is a question of what level you pitch it at and how much 'infotainment' an American broadcaster would want. We would obviously want to make it as serious as possible."

Mr Jessel believes the American justice system throws up even more miscarriages of justice than in the UK. In a recent case a high-school civics class looked at the case of a prisoner on death row as a class project and was able to find more defence evidence than his court-appointed lawyer. This included an entire basketball team able to provide an alibi for the prisoner, who was later pardoned.



A Chinese model wearing the latest in fashion from one of Hong Kong's brightest designers, Pacino Wan, at a fashion show sponsored by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, as part of China's Chic '98 in Peking. Photograph: AFP

HURRY! SOME OFFERS MUST END 29TH APRIL

ONLY AT BRITAIN'S BIGGEST KITCHEN STORE

Schreiber

QUALITY RIGID KITCHENS

UP TO 50% OFF RIGID KITCHEN CABINETS

SALE TOO BIG TO MISS

This Schreiber Quality Rigid Kitchen

For Only £1989.50

ANAE WASHER/DRYER £499 SAVE £200

£200 OFF ANY OTHER ANAE WASH/DRYER IN OUR RANGE

NEO ELECTRIC SINGLE OVEN PACKAGE SALE PRICE £499 SAVE £120

EXPERT INSTALLATION BEST VALUE - FULLY GUARANTEED

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 0800 192192

MFI home works

SHOPPING HOURS: Sunday 11-5, Monday 10-6, Tuesday 10-6, Wednesday 10-6, Thursday 10-6, Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-6

Northern Ireland: Sun 1-5, Mon 10-6, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-6, Sat 9-6

Teachers could strike over action zones

THE second largest teaching union threatened possible strike action yesterday over the Government's flagship action zones to raise school standards.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), said he could not rule out a nationwide walkout if pilot education action zones eroded teachers' pay and conditions.

Plans for the zones, which would each include around 20 schools, involve giving teachers freedom to rewrite the national curriculum and gives managers the option to change teachers' contracts. The bids for the first five zones are currently being considered.

But delegates at the NASUWT conference in Scarborough said that the zones were a "Trojan horse" designed to break up national pay bargaining. They also condemned moves towards what they claimed was the privatisation of education by including businesses in bids for the zones.

Mr de Gruchy said the zones were a "complete irrelevance". He said: "How is an education action zone going to assist the teachers in the classroom where a local education authority cannot? I do not see why teachers or anyone else in the education service should have to go to the begging bowl around."

"I think EAZs will at the end

NASUWT fears plan could erode members' pay, reports

Ben Russell

of the day, turn out to be a bit of an expensive nonsense which will not do anything."

Teachers at the conference warned the zones would cost thousands of pounds to administer, without channelling significant sums into schools.

Bob Morley, a member of the union's national executive, said: "I say to myself, is this exercise really about raising standards, or is the agenda really to set up a number of laboratories where children will be used as experimental mice when the latest educational fads and fancies will be tested."

"They do not address the fundamental issue of providing adequate resources for all schools serving areas of economic and social deprivation."

Tony Hardman, another national executive member, told the conference: "This is probably the most dangerous development we have had to discuss at conference for a very long time."

Delegates heard one bid had proposed opening schools at weekends and in the

evenings. But Mr de Gruchy said he would be sceptical about any deal to offer extra pay in return for a longer working year, as proposed by Education Select Committee chairman, Margaret Hodge. "Extra pay can be eroded over time," he said.

Other delegates warned that action zone bids would put little extra money directly into schools. Simon Whitney, from Norfolk, spoke about a bid for an action zone in Thetford. He said: "When you start working out how much money the individual schools are going to get, it must be about £10,000 or £11,000. That is half a teacher. Are we going to lose our conditions of service for half a teacher?"

Delegates also unanimously backed a motion calling for ministers to send guidance on teachers' workloads to all schools.

The union is planning a boycott of excessive bureaucracy starting at the beginning of the summer term. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, is expected to reassure teachers about red tape when he addresses the conference today.

Mr de Gruchy said there was still time to call off the industrial action. He said: "If David Blunkett can say these things will help and help quickly, and if those things will improve the situation considerably, then the national executive would be crazy not to consider what he says."

Blunkett pledges £500m for repairs to 4,000 schools

A PACKAGE worth £500m to cut the backlog of repairs in 4,000 schools will be announced today by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education.

Mr Blunkett will unveil the scheme, a combination of government funding and private sector finance, when he addresses the second largest teachers' union in Scarborough.

His announcement to the NASUWT will attempt to alleviate complaints that Labour education reforms have not filtered down to teachers and children in schools.

The package consists of £257m state funding, £50m from local authorities, schools and the National Lottery, and £200m "levered in" by public private partnerships.

Mr Blunkett said that the announcement was a "clear

demonstration of the Government's commitment to ensuring that pupils have decent conditions in which to learn and teachers have decent conditions in which to teach."

The government money released is part of the £1.3bn New Deal for schools capital programme announced last year.

"Repairs and innovations have already improved over 2,000 schools," Mr Blunkett said. "This will benefit another 4,000 schools over the coming year."

The announcement comes after Conservatives accused Labour of renegeing on its pledges on education funding. Stephen Dorrell, Tory spokesman on education, said only two-thirds of the increase in funds for English schools announced in last July's budget had actually reached the

classroom. He said an analysis of local authority education budgets showed only £539m of the promised £835m increase had gone into schools. "These figures show that... school budgets remain very tight. For 18 years, Labour spokesmen claimed that under Labour it would be different. Mr Blunkett must now recognise that this claim is, as it always has been, a sham."

Nigel de Gruchy, NASUWT general secretary, said teachers had felt little difference on the ground despite the extra funding. "The feel-good factor is possibly just as bad as it was before," he said.

Senior government sources dismissed Mr Dorrell's claims yesterday, saying some of the money allocated to education had been channelled into local authority education initiatives.

Charities to be policed by new watchdog

By Chris Blackhurst

PLANS for a new body to police charities and other fundraising organisations have been drawn up after a series of financial scandals and an alarming drop in public confidence.

Called ABFO, short for the Accrediting Bureau for Fundraising Organisations, the new body will work alongside the Charity Commission, currently the only watchdog for Britain's 180,000-plus charities. The new bureau will be launched in London next week.

Whereas the commission will continue to register charities and receive and check their accounts, the new regulator is intended to be more proactive, sending in inspectors formally to check that the public's money is being spent properly.

ABFO's directors include John Beishon, formerly head of the Consumers' Association, John Rimington, ex-chief of the Health and Safety Executive, and Malcolm Bates, previously on the board of GEC. It will be independent of the commission and entirely non-profitmaking. Charities who are accredited by ABFO will receive a tick-mark seal of approval which they will be able to display on their notepaper and advertisements.

To receive the tick of approval they will have to comply with a checklist of their accounting and management methods. Similar agencies exist in the US and Europe.

In the last few years, said Mr Beishon, while there has been an explosion in fund-raising through mailshots, charities shops and media "specials",

there has also been a rise in the number of scandals. In Britain, around £12bn a year is given to good causes. There had also been a huge growth in international bodies coming to Britain to raise cash. The public, he said, needed to be satisfied who they were dealing with. The Charity Commission, for instance, has a mandate to cover only charities established in Britain.

"With so many causes and so many organisations, people need reassurance about where their money is going and whether it will be used properly and for the intended purpose," said Mr Beishon.

"What proportion of their donation goes to the good causes? Is too much spent on administration? Who are the trustees and do they exercise proper trusteeship over their charity or fund-raising organisation? Are the accounts properly audited and presented in a form people can understand? These are the kinds of questions people ask and they are entitled to answers to."

A recent survey found that the public has about as much faith in charities as it does in insurance companies. "By providing accreditation confidence will be restored and more people will give more money," said Mr Beishon. He cited scandals affecting charities and public bodies such as the Salvation Army, NSPCC and the Church Commissioners as having eroded trust.

Mr Rimington added: "We will crawl over an organisation, we will look at everything, we will satisfy ourselves as to the probity of the people at the top. We will ensure they are the right people."

The photographer who found healing in pictures

By Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor



Close call: Suzanne Keith after removal of a brain tumour as big as a satsuma

Photograph: Roger Hutchings

THE tumour in Suzanne Keith's brain was the size of a satsuma. When it was diagnosed, her first thought was: this could make a good picture.

A photographer herself, Ms Keith, 53, had booked seats for the cinema with her boyfriend one Saturday afternoon in Canterbury last January when she decided to pop into a local optician for an eye test. She had been suffering with migraines and blurred vision and was seeking reassurance. The optician asked her to go straight to casualty.

He had spotted a swelling behind her eye. She was admitted that evening, had a brain scan next day and was transferred to Kings College hospital, London for surgery 48 hours later. She contacted Roger Hutchings, a former colleague, whom she knew had been commissioned to produce a photo essay on the NHS. "It gave me something else to think about other than the operation," she said.

He jumped at the chance to record her progress from diagnosis through surgery to convalescence. The results, in an exhibition launched last night as part of the NHS's 50th anniversary celebrations, shocked both of them.

Mr Hutchings was with her throughout the seven-hour operation and afterwards on the ward. When she saw the pictures she wondered who she was looking at. "I found a couple of them really disturbing. In one, my face is completely covered with tape. I could recognise myself from the outline but it was featureless. It was weird. With holiday snaps you look at them and you remember being there. But this was a record of eight hours of my life of which I had no memory. The only evidence it happened are the pictures."

The tumour was benign and Ms Keith is well on the way to recovery. She said: "It looks dehumanising - like a kind of mummification. When she came through I gave a 'Whoop!' inside."

The exhibition "NHS Now... Towards the Future" includes seven photo essays and will tour the country, beginning at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital on May 6 and finishing in Leeds in December.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

Currys

First quantum computer

By Charles Arthur
Science and Technology Editor

American scientists have demonstrated a computer that thinks laterally - solving problems by, in effect, jumping instantly to the conclusion rather than working through successive steps to the answer.

Though only in their early stages now, during the next century "quantum computers" which utilise the mysterious nature of fundamental particles such as protons, could produce machines capable of instantaneously solving prodigious mathematical problems, where a conventional supercomputer would labour for centuries.

In the latest experiment, Isaac Chuang of IBM and Neil Gershenfeld of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) developed a quantum computer which performed its calculations using just two atoms in a molecule of chloroform.

The calculation was modest - determining the answer to two questions about four numbers (a

task akin to deciding which of the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 is odd and more than 2). But the system reached it in one step instead of the four that a conventional computer would have required.

Loy Grover, a physicist at AT&T Bell Labs in New Jersey - the place which first designed the transistor, the fundamental element of the computer - told *New Scientist* magazine that the work is "a remarkable achievement: they've demonstrated that quantum computing works, not just with pencil and paper, but in the lab."

The quantum system relies on the fact that the physical properties such as the "spin" of objects such as protons and electrons can exist in "superposed" states which simultaneously have more than one value.

Whereas in a conventional computer a single piece of information - a "bit" - is always either 0 or 1, in a quantum computer the values of the quantum bits - "qubits" - exist as both 0 and 1 until a measurement is made.

DAILY POEM

Poem

by John Gray

Geranium, houseleek, laid in oblong beds
On the trim grass: the daisies' leprous stain
Is fresh. Each night the daisies burst again.
Though every day the gardener crops their heads.

A wistful child, in foul and wholesome shreds,
Recalls some legend of a daisy chain
That makes a pretty necklace. She would fain
Make one, and wear it, if she had some threads.

Sing, leprous flowers, foul child: The asphalt burns
The gartulus sparrows perch on metal urns.
Sing! Sing! they say, and flutter with their wings.
He does not sing, he only wonders why
He is sitting there. The sparrows sing. And I
Yield to the great allure of simple things.

Our Daily Poems until Friday come from the expanded edition of the Penguin Classics anthology *Poetry of the 1890s* (Penguin, £8.99), edited by R K R Thornton and Marion Thain. This poem first appeared in John Gray's *Silverpoints* (1893); later he turned to religious poetry and was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1901.

YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN
WORLD CUP 98
FINAL TICKETS*

PLUS
FREE FOOTBALL
TICKETS FOR THE
WORLD CUP 98 FINAL



BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Numeric Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 alerts.
Model EASYREACH 103.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£39.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

BT Alphabetic Pager
Stores up to 20 messages.
Up to 20 digit message length.
Choice of 5 musical alerts.
Model ALPHA 227.
Was £69.99. Now £59.99.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£59.99

UP TO
SAVE £50
WITH ORANGE



orange

'TALKAHEAD'
All-in-One Digital Mobile
Phone Package

■ Up to 150 minutes talktime/
40 hours standby time.
■ Up to 190 name and
number memory.
■ Fax and data compatible.
■ Supports caller ID - see who
is calling before you answer.
Model MOTOROLA MR30.
Was £149.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£129.99*

SAVE
£20

'JUST TALK'
Pre-Pay Digital Mobile Phone Package

■ Up to 250 minutes talktime/
75 hours standby time.
■ 30 name and number memory.
■ Supports caller identification -
see who is calling before
you answer.
Model MOTOROLA MR201.
Was £139.99. Now £119.99.

CURRYS PRICE
£129.99

**'TALKAHEAD' ANNUAL
PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- 12 MONTHS LINE RENTAL
- CONNECTION FEE
- 15 MINUTES OF FREE CALLS EVERY MONTH

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.
Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN
WORLD CUP
98 TICKETS

WITH
PAGEONE
MINICall

When you purchase a PAGEONE Minicall Pager offer
ends 13th May 1998. Ask in-store for full details.



PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

PAGEONE Alphabetic Pager
Choice of 15 alerts including vibrate.
Stores up to 5 names and telephone
numbers. Model MOTOROLA ALPHA 200.
FREE CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

only
Currys
bring you
all this

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

**TRUST BRITAIN'S LEADING ELECTRICAL STORE
TO OFFER THE FRIENDLY HELP AND ADVICE
YOU NEED WHEN CHOOSING A PHONE**

BIGGER CHOICE
We offer a superb choice of the latest phones and
communications equipment. Our range of mobiles
covers tariffs from the major networks to meet every
need, whether you make calls every day or just want
to stay in touch.

SHOP WHEN YOU WANT
Open Sundays and up to 8pm Monday-Saturday.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years' expert service support when you
buy a Mastercard Coverage Service Agreement.

Currys
**BRITAIN'S BIGGEST
ELECTRICAL STORES**

All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening.
Ring 0900 500009 for details of your nearest store.

Written quotations from Currys, Dept 8th, Heron Way, Walsby, Lincs LN10 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

Written quotations from Currys, Dept 8th, Heron Way, Walsby, Lincs LN10 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

Written quotations from Currys, Dept 8th, Heron Way, Walsby, Lincs LN10 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

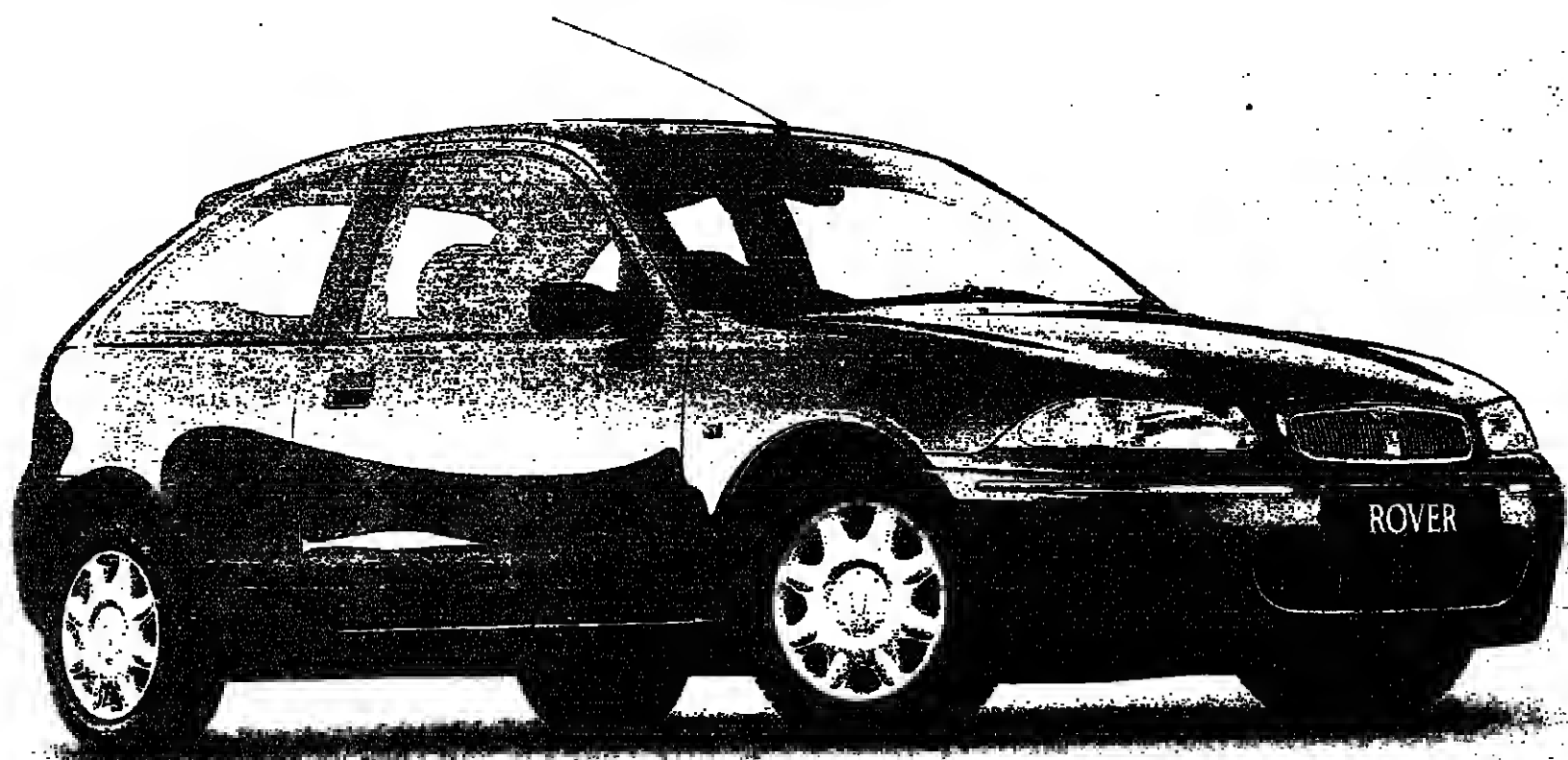
Written quotations from Currys, Dept 8th, Heron Way, Walsby, Lincs LN10 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

Written quotations from Currys, Dept 8th, Heron Way, Walsby, Lincs LN10 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

Written quotations from Currys, Dept 8th, Heron Way, Walsby, Lincs LN10 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

Written quotations from Currys, Dept 8th, Heron Way, Walsby, Lincs LN10 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

Written quotations from Currys, Dept 8th, Heron Way, Walsby, Lincs LN10 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.



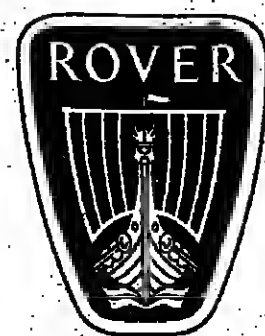
FROM £9,700

ROVER 211i.

**A GREAT WAY
TO GET A
YEAR'S FREE
INSURANCE.**

The Rover 200 range starts at just £9,700 with a year's free insurance.
An offer that's extremely good value on the road, and heaven forbid, rather useful should you come off it.

For more information call 0345 186 186 or visit www.rovercars.com.



CAR SHOWN ROVER 211i 3 DOOR £9,700 ON THE ROAD. †SUBJECT TO INSURERS TERMS AND CONDITIONS. OFFER AVAILABLE UNTIL 30.04.98.

هكنا من الامم

Wired-up Blair faces cyberspace grilling

By Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

A REVAMPED No.10 website is to be opened today by Tony Blair, who will also make a clutch of announcements on the Government's £600m package for a National Grid for Learning, the computer links planned for all schools and libraries by the year 2002.

It was revealed last night that the Prime Minister will also take part in a website broadcast - called a webcast - on 29 April, when members of the public will be able to email questions to Mr Blair, whose replies will be posted on the No.10 website.

That was described by some officials as "Europe's first live Internet interview with a government leader", but there was no suggestion that the interview or the website would provide anything more than repeats of the Government message - put out by the Prime Minister at every opportunity since last May's election.

As for the £600m package, one of the Prime Minister's spokesmen said that half the money would be used on equipment, buying laptops and other computer network facilities.

Of that £300m, a third would be spent this year wiring up schools, £150m would be spent putting hospitals on the

NHS net - with support from the private sector - and £50m would come from the new lottery-backed Opportunities Fund to help put public libraries on line.

The other £300m would be spent on training and up-dating skills of teachers, librarians and others, including the "bug-buster" programme recently announced by Mr Blair - a £30m programme to train people in dealing with computer equipment that was not properly programmed for the Year 2000 changeover.

The bulk of the training money, more than £200m will be spent on training teachers to become IT literate.

Overall, the programme will be geared to dealing with 9 million school pupils, who will each have an email address, and 450,000 teachers in 32,000 state, maintained and independent schools; 4 million students and 250,000 staff in 900 further education institutions; and 27,000 library staff in 4,300 public libraries used by 60 per cent of the population.

It is currently estimated that there are 6 million people who use the Internet in the United Kingdom; an increase of 70 per cent over the last 12 months. The global estimate is that there are 50 million people using the Net, and that is expected to rise to 175 million by the end of 2001.

Methodists back vicar's heroin call

By Linus Gregoriadis
and Alistair Clay

THE METHODIST Church last night backed a vicar's call for a debate on the legalisation of heroin.

Geraldine Ranson, spokeswoman for the church, said: "We would support a thorough investigation into the pros and cons of legalising cannabis and other drugs including heroin. We would particularly favour a royal commission which would give a careful and thorough inquiry into legalising drugs."

"We don't know have a view on what the outcome should be but we would like to see an inquiry carried out."

The Rev Peter Green said on Tuesday that leaving the distribution of heroin in the hands of organised criminals was "fraught with dangers". Mr Green, vicar at the St Barnabas Church in Dudley, West Midlands, suggested that the drug could be sold by a state-run monopoly with a health warning.

However, his views were not endorsed by the Church of England. A spokesman for the church said it was strongly opposed to the drug's legalisation.

The Methodist Church first called for an inquiry into the legalisation of drugs in 1995 when it published a report urging its 1.5 million churchgoers to "think the unthinkable".

It asked: "Should users be decriminalised and should some currently illicit drugs be legalised?"

The report, *Substances of Abuse*, emphasised that there are fewer deaths caused by illegal drugs than tobacco and alcohol. Mr Green said on Tuesday that he believed that the legalisation of heroin could reduce levels of crime.

He said: "There are many reasons for crime but much of it is caused by people supplying their drug habit. I think I am aware of kids being supplied in the vicinity and they are in the hands of unscrupulous people."

"From a theological perspective this comes under the heading: 'Not everything which is sinful should also be illegal.'"

Keith Hellawell, the Government's drugs tsar, warned of a heroin epidemic earlier this week amid fears that wraps of the drug were being sold on the streets for the same price as a pint of beer.

Rule change for battered women

IMMIGRATION minister Mike O'Brien is considering new proposals to prevent battered women being deported as illegal immigrants after they leave their husbands, writes Ian Burrell.

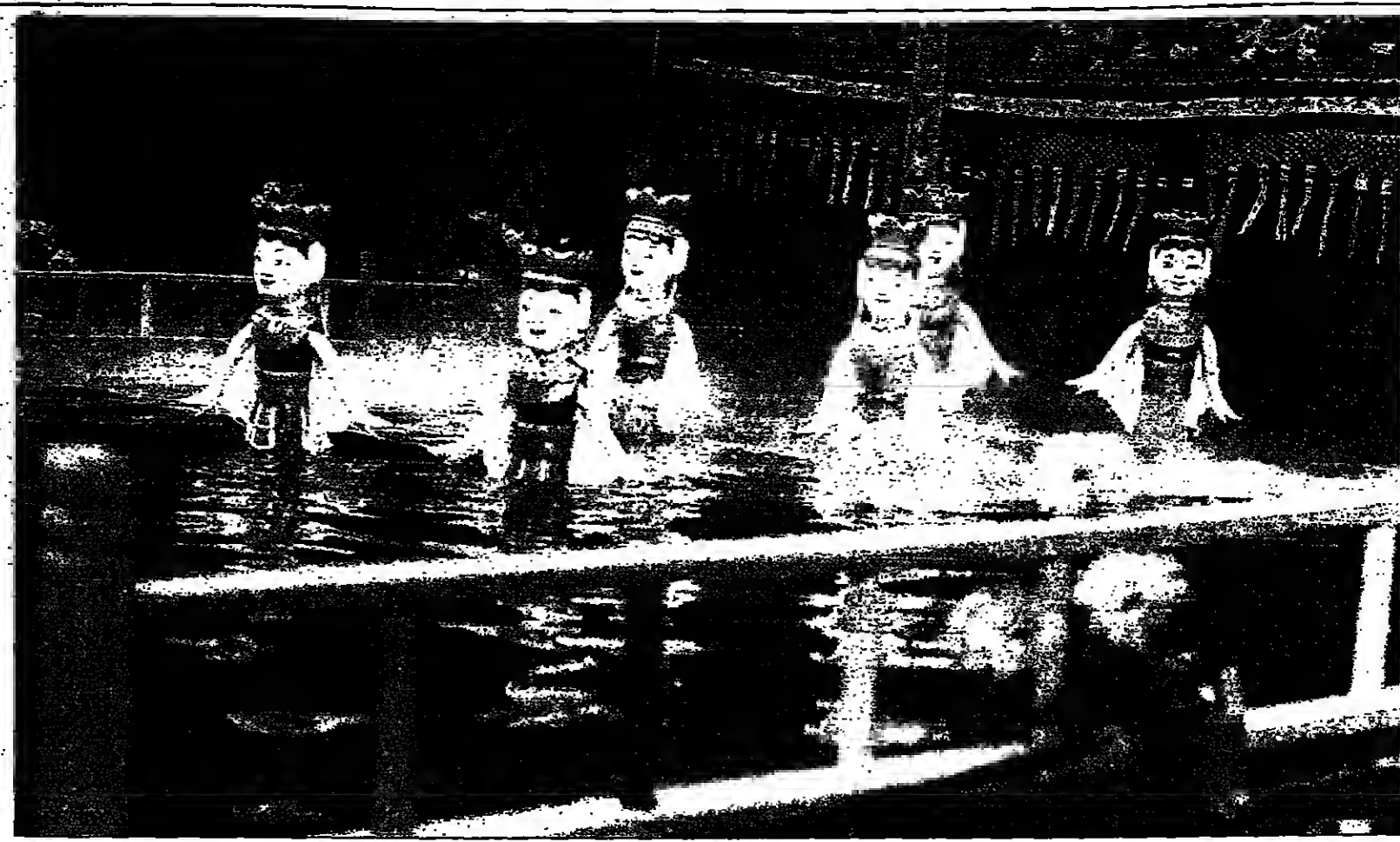
Mr O'Brien has agreed to look at recommendations that domestic violence victims are made exempt from the one-year immigration rule, which requires a spouse to remain with in a marriage for 12 months before they can apply to remain in Britain permanently.

Last night the minister met representatives of Southall Black Sisters' women's group, which claims that around 350 women a year face being deported after fleeing domestic abuse.

Spokeswoman Hannana Siddiqui said: "If the Government is really committed to protecting the victims of domestic violence then these women should be allowed to stay in the country."

The group is lobbying for the one-year rule to be scrapped entirely. But the Home Office said last night that this would not happen. "It is more a case of looking at the predicament of a small but important number of women who find themselves the subject of domestic violence."

Immigration officials are studying the proposals, which include making women who can prove they have been abused exempt from the one-year rule.



Float on: The fairy dance, from the 'Soul of the Rice Fields' water puppet performance by the National Puppet Theatre of Hanoi, taking place at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith, west London. The event is part of the Vietnam Festival of Culture at several venues in the capital until 28 April. The puppet shows run until Sunday

Photograph: Kalpesh Ladhiga

Prices quoted refer to specification descriptions only. The ProSignia 200 contains an Intel Pentium II processor. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Offer ends on 30 June 1998.



Some people
would pay the
earth
for three years'
peace of mind.

You'll pay nothing.

We've enhanced our warranties to very attractive levels for customers buying before 1st July. As usual, there'll be a bigger call for Compaq than any other brand of computer.

The earth's favourite computers.



Compaq Armada 1598D

266MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, 32MB EDO memory, 512KB Level 2 cache, 4.0GB SMART hard drive, bright 13.3" colour TFT screen, high-performance 20x CD ROM drive, Microsoft® Windows 95, NSTL tested hardware, year 2000 compliant.

£2,199 ex VAT, £2,584 inc VAT



Compaq Deskpro 2000 5200

200MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, 16MB high-performance SDRAM, 256KB level 2 cache, 2.1GB SMART hard drive, 15" colour V55 monitor, Microsoft® Windows 95, NSTL tested hardware, year 2000 compliant.

£749 ex VAT, £880 inc VAT

www.compaq.co.uk

0845 270 4141

Call us at local rates to hear about all our free warranty upgrades. Lines are open 8am-8pm on weekdays, 10am-4pm at weekends. Please quote 98EPCS.

COMPAQ



Peace broker satisfied at a job well done

John Hume tells David McKitterick that the Ulster deal offers new hope

THE PHONE in John Hume's Donegal hideaway provides ample confirmation of his statement that the new agreement has "massive" support. In the course of this interview it delivered a stream of messages of goodwill and support, including calls from a prime minister and a US Congressman.

"Never in my life have I had a reaction like this," says Mr Hume. "The phone hasn't stopped and on the streets people come up to me, from all sections of the community, strongly expressing their support."

"What's quite remarkable is that most people say the exact same thing - congratulations, well done, it's great. It's an expression of what the vast majority have wanted for so long. They've wanted agreement, an end to the conflict and the violence on our streets, and they see this as a foundation for a new beginning. The response is massive."

Mr Hume traces the new agreement's roots back through the long and tortuous peace process to the beginning of his much-criticised dialogue with republicanism almost a decade ago. A decade is, to coin a phrase, a long time in politics, but right up to the last moment it was touch and go: "There were moments of strong crisis when it looked very difficult," he recalls. "The last stretch, when we were up all night, was

when at times it looked its worst, but it was resolved by the dedication of everyone."

"I think what was crucial was the presence of the two prime ministers, Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern. I'd pay a special tribute to Tony Blair, who from the moment he came into office made it clear that this problem was right at the top of his agenda."

He outlines his ambitions for the agreement: "It will concentrate minds on areas of agreement, and there are very substantial areas of agreement in the social and economic fields. In doing that we will work together and that will create new attitudes and in the end a whole new society."

"Its strength is that it deals with the fact that we are a divided people, and there's no victory for either side. What it does is create institutions which will be shared by both sections of the community, and create the opportunity for both sections to work together in their common interests. I would hope that by doing that we will build up the

trust that has been missing in the past, and that in a generation or two we're going to have a totally new society based on agreement and respect for difference which will move away from the tribal divisions of the past. What has come out of the agreement is not a victory for either side but an accommodation of both."

Asked whether he believes republicans will subscribe to a vision so different from their tra-

ditional aims, Mr Hume replies: "Paramilitary organisations on both sides handed down notions that the patriotic thing to do was to die for your country, not realising that there's a thin line between dying and killing for your country. That's a notion of politics and patriotism that we must now totally leave behind us."

"Exactly 200 years ago, Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen spoke of bringing together Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter. That's the task that now faces us still, but I hope that as we move into the next century we will achieve it."

On the decommissioning of weapons he asserts: "This issue has been overplayed by some people. I don't see the IRA handing over guns to a British government any more than I see loyalists handing over guns to anybody. The real question is whether they are serious when they say that they have stopped. What is important is their word."

The most controversial aspect of the agreement is that dealing with prisoners, since it envisages the release of almost all of them within two years. Mr Hume says of this: "I understand the feelings of people about the prisoners, but if we're going to resolve this problem when we have to leave the past behind us, responsibility for what happened lies in a lot of directions. You can point to the fact that Northern Ireland was governed as a one-party state for 30 years, and the damage that was done by discrimination; you can point to the paramilitaries, certainly, and their killings."



Middle man: John Hume, who started the whole peace process by talking to Gerry Adams Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

'The phone hasn't stopped, and people come up to me on the streets strongly expressing their support'

ditional aims. Mr Hume replies: "Paramilitary organisations on both sides handed down notions that the patriotic thing to do was to die for your country, not realising that there's a thin line between dying and killing for your country. That's a notion of politics and patriotism that we must now totally leave behind us."

"Exactly 200 years ago, Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen spoke of bringing together Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter. That's the task that now faces us still, but I hope that as we move into the next century we will achieve it."

On the decommissioning of

Ireland hits deadlock over prisoner release

By Alan Murdoch in Dublin

EFFORTS to sell the Stormont peace agreement in the Irish Republic have hit a stumbling block over the emotive issue of whether those charged with the 1996 murder of the Limerick garda (police officer) Jerry McCabe should be freed.

A row erupted yesterday after a senior Sinn Féin figure, Martin Ferris, insisted all IRA prisoners should be freed. Asked if that specifically included those on remand in the McCabe case, he said there could be no settlement until all prisoners were released, according to *The Examiner* newspaper.

Under the Northern Ireland settlement all paramilitary prisoners are to be freed in two years. But the idea that those guilty of murdering a garda has caused outrage in the Irish Republic.

Until recently this offence carried the death penalty, and as "capital murder" still means a mandatory 40 year sentence. Garda representatives insisted

there could be no question of an amnesty for anyone who is convicted of the killing in pending trials.

Michael Kirby, vice president of the 6,500-strong Garda Representative Association said: "The fact that Mr Ferris is suggesting there shouldn't even be a trial is an absolute outrage. We cannot cheapen the memory of our members' lives. The trial must go ahead."

"What price do you put on a guard's life? What do you do to show loyalty to the Garda Síochána (police force)? I don't believe the government will take this on board," he said.

Four men, including former Brixton escaper Pearce McAuley, have been charged with the killing of Mr McCabe during an IRA raid on a postal van in Adare in June 1996. A colleague accompanying him on escort duty, Ben O'Sullivan, was critically injured when the IRA unit opened up at point blank range.

The murdered officer's funeral turned into an impromptu demonstration against the IRA. An estimated 25,000

people including the then President Mary Robinson and the Taoiseach followed the coffin through Limerick City.

Sinn Féin yesterday attempted to cool the row, saying suggestions that it gave the Dublin government an ultimatum demanding the immediate release of all IRA prisoners were "mischievous."

The party said it "never singled out any prisoner in terms of our demand for an amnesty, nor have we given an ultimatum to the Irish government. We merely reiterated our demand that all prisoners be released as part of any peace agreement."

The Stormont agreement, published yesterday in the Irish Republic, states: "The intention would be that should the circumstances allow it, any qualifying prisoners who remained in custody two years after the commencement of the scheme would be released."

Mr Ferris, who served a prison term for gun-running, attended several recent Stormont meetings and a Downing Street meeting late last year with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Redwood demands clarity over predatory pricing

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

THE uncertainty and confusion that is being created by the Government's new Competition Bill should be cleared up before the legislation is enacted, John Redwood said yesterday.

Peers and MPs have already joined forces to demand clarity on the question of predatory pricing by Rupert Murdoch's *Times* newspaper.

While predatory pricing is covered by the government proposals, ministers cannot give an undertaking that the cut-price *Times* would be contravening the new law.

But Mr Redwood, the Conservative spokesman on trade and industry, makes a broader point in a letter to John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, saying that what business wants to know is whether a wide range of existing practices is going to be caught out by the new legislation.

"Do you envisage at the beginning of this new legislation a large number of individual companies and individual industries coming to you to seek comfort or guidance on whether their existing practices are reasonable or not?"

"Are you prepared to make



Redwood: 'No guidance on what will be illegal'

"Would the recommended cover price for newspapers and similar products be acceptable or would this be regarded as an abuse?" Mr Redwood asks.

"Is it the intention of the legislation to abolish resale price maintenance in all forms, or not? Are franchise agreements legal under the new rules, or would they be deemed to be restrictive and anti-competitive?"

Mr Redwood says there are thousands of businesses currently confident that their business practice is legal, but there is no firm guidance on what will be illegal when the new law takes effect.

He tells Mr Bridgeman that he is grateful for guidance on how to define a market, but that is not what business wants.

"Business has already worked out what the existing proposals roughly mean. What business needs is much greater certainty about how they are going to be enforced."

Illustrating his point, Mr Redwood asks, for example, whether vertical tie arrangements between car manufacturers and car distributors, brewers and pubs, oil companies and petrol stations, would be allowed to continue under the new competition regime.

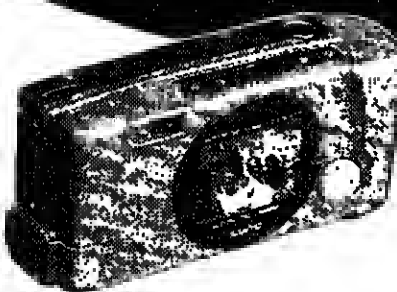
Dixons GET MORE OUT OF YOUR PC WITH DIGITAL IMAGING TECHNOLOGY

The revolution has arrived... cameras and camcorders have gone digital! With these ultra-compact digital cameras, because they store images digitally, there's no more film or developing, so you can view your photos instantly. You can edit and store them on your PC, look at them on your TV, put them into letters and documents - even fax or E-mail them!

HIGH RESOLUTION

The new generation of digital cameras deliver stunning picture quality with the incredible resolution of around a million pixels, giving amazing clarity on screen and in print.

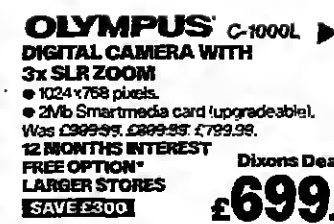
TEST DRIVE THEM TODAY



SANYO
VPC200 DIGITAL CAMERA
• 640x480 pixels • 4Mb external memory
Was £399.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE £50
Dixons Deal
£349.99



Kodak
DC200 MEGA PIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA
• 1152x864 pixels
• Stores up to 60 images
• 4Mb removable memory card
• 1.8" colour LCD display
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
LARGER STORES
Dixons Deal
£449.99



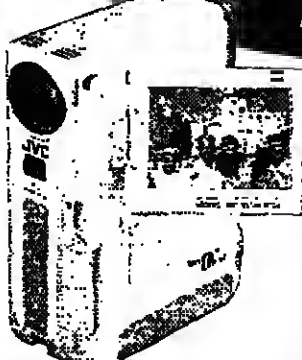
OLYMPUS C-1000
DIGITAL CAMERA WITH 3x SLR ZOOM
• 1024x768 pixels
• 2Mb Smartmedia card (upgradeable)
Was £999.99, £899.99, £799.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
LARGER STORES
SAVE £300
Dixons Deal
£699.99
EXCLUSIVE TO DIXONS PARTIAL LTD.

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

And with these palm-sized digital camcorders, you don't just enjoy professional image quality; you also get instant playback on your TV or, with selected models, on the built-in LCD screen. Not only that, you can edit and manipulate your films on your PC as well!

TEST DRIVE THEM TODAY

Ask for a full demonstration in-store



JVC GR-DVX DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 100x SUPER DIGITAL ZOOM
• 2.5" colour LCD screen • Snapshot mode
• Docking station allows easy editing
Also available with capture box for still images
Was £1999.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE £100
Dixons Deal
£1499.99



JVC GR-DV5000 DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 100x SUPER DIGITAL ZOOM
• 4" LCD screen
• Amazing large P12 lens
• Easy stills transfer to PC
• Digital effects during playback and easy edit
• Direct PC connection
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
Dixons Deal
£1799.99



SONY SC100E DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 48x DIGITAL ZOOM
• 3" colour LCD monitor
• 8 programme auto-exposure modes
Was £1099.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE £100
Dixons Deal
£999.99

*Ask in-store for details

FIRST FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY Dixons

ONLINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk
INTEREST FREE Account is interest free if repaid in full before the 6th, 9th or 12th monthly payment. Typical Example: Cash price £1799.99, 10% deposit of £180.00, loan amount: £1619.99. 0% INTEREST. 48 monthly payments of £54.78 and the balance of £262.53 before 1st next 12th monthly payment. (Total Repayable £1799.99, interest £0.00)
29.5% APR
48 monthly payments of £54.78, Total Repayable £2629.44, APR 29.5%
ORDER HOTLINE 08000 65 28 68
Dixons Retail Ltd

هكسان الاصل

Mystery of Britain's disappearing nightingales



Vanishing breed: The nightingale (left) and Dame Vera Lynn (right) in Berkeley Square yesterday
Photograph: Rui Xavier



By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

DAME VERA LYNN, who sang about the nightingale that sang in Berkeley Square, sang about it again yesterday - to help nightingales everywhere. The Second World War forces' sweetheart returned to the London square to launch an appeal and research project by the British Trust for Ornithology aimed at finding why, over much of their previous British range, nightingales are disappearing. From 1972 to 1991 they vanished from a third of their previous breeding sites. The BTO wants to do a new census next year and see what can be done to stop numbers declining further.

Dame Vera gave her blessing to the campaign and accepted a CD of nightingale song. She was persuaded to do a little light warbling of her own, about there being magic in the air, angels dining at the Ritz, and that little brown feathered chap doing its thing in London W1, etc. She had never heard a real nightingale, she said, but, armed with her CD, she would be listening at her home in Ditchling, East Sussex. She may be fortunate, as the bird, which migrates

into Britain from sub-Saharan Africa in April, is overwhelmingly a visitor to south-east England.

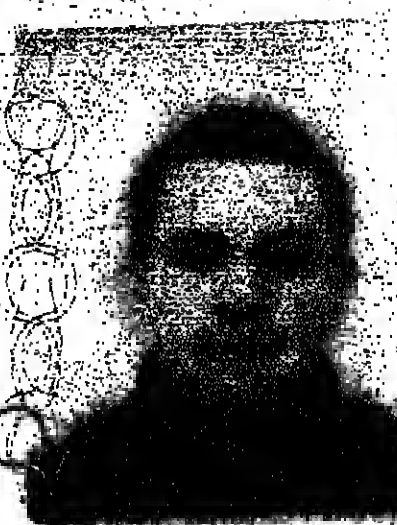
It has abandoned many of its former strongholds on the northern edge of its range in the Midlands. The loss of suitable habitat was the likeliest cause, said Rob Fuller, of the BTO, in particular the dense scrub in which nightingales like to skulk. "If you put a man in a white suit into a wood," he said, "and you could see him ten feet away, then it wouldn't be dense enough for nightingales."

Abandonment of traditional woodland management methods such as coppicing, which produces dense undergrowth, probably accounted for much of the loss, he said, pointing out that in Britain the nightingale was anyway at the extreme end of its European range.

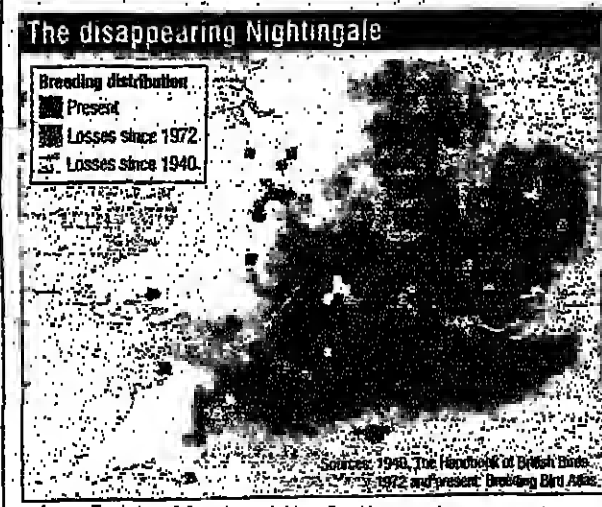
The males sing to proclaim their territories for about two months after arrival, by day and night, but are more noticeable in the dark. There are probably about 5,000 pairs in England. If many people have never heard one, fewer have seen one, as they are a dull brown, with a rufous tail - like a slightly larger robin without the red breast

and rarely emerge from their cover. Berkeley Square, with its open green lawns, would not be a suitable habitat. "Nightingales? There?" said Dr Fuller. "Forget it." "Doesn't matter," Dame Vera said. "We sang about bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover, and we haven't got bluebirds, either."

Which one is the DRUG SMUGGLER?



<<A CUSTOMS OFFICER >>
<<WOULD HAVE CHOSEN BY NOW >>



WATERSTONE'S BOOKS

Gottfried Wagner
will be in Harrods on Monday.

Wagner's grandson Gottfried will be signing copies of
The Wagner Legacy:
He Does Not Howl with the Wolf: An Autobiography
in the Book Department, Second Floor,
on Monday 20th April, 1998 between 12.30-1.30pm.
Published by Macmillan, price £20.

If you are unable to attend please telephone
0171 730 1234 ext. 3125 to reserve your signed copy.

Harrods
Harrods Limited, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL

THE INDEPENDENT

Win a deluxe style Zanussi Ostentivo

Do not miss this chance to win a superb Zanussi Ostentivo 2029 Refrigerator, a new upright fridge with 2 star freezer compartments. Available in yellow, silver or black it is CFC free and features 4 solid fridge drawers, 6 half depth glass shelves, bottle rack, dairy compartment and also a drinks dispenser.

To enter this competition, simply dial the number below, answer the question you will hear on line and leave your name and full address stating which colour you prefer.

Call 0930 563894

Call and stop pay provided at all times. Winners picked at random after lines close 16 April 1998. Usual independent Newspaper rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

TONIGHT 8-10PM **ITV INVESTIGATES UNDERCOVER CUSTOMS** **ITV**

www.itv.co.uk

Headers harmed brain, says footballer

A FOOTBALL legend suffering from pre-senile dementia claims his condition was caused by heading old-style leather footballs.

Billy McPhail, 70, appeared yesterday before a benefits appeal tribunal in Glasgow to argue he is entitled to industrial disablement payments of £70 a week.

The footballer, who once prided himself on being the highest jumper in the game, argues that his condition was caused by heading heavy balls in his playing days in Scottish football at Queen's Park, Clyde and Celtic.

His career ended soon after he took part in Celtic's 7-1 defeat of Rangers in the 1957 League Cup final, a record win in any major British football final.

In that game he scored a hat-trick with his head and, with his victorious Celtic team mates, became an idol among contemporary fans.

Mr McPhail, of Glasgow, recalled recently: "I was told I was the highest jumper in the business - I could always get up higher than any defender."

"The ball used to get very heavy when it rained - when you took that full in the forehead it nearly knocked you over."

The Benefits Agency does not accept his condition arose from his employment as a professional footballer, but Mr McPhail and his lawyer, Tom Murray, say studies of head injuries to footballers and a consultant's report back up his case.

Neurologists at the Walton Centre on Merseyside are studying 500 former players to examine any link between heading the ball and the onset of dementia.

Mr Murray is also citing research papers which he argues show a link has been established by neurologists studying Norwegian footballers of Mr McPhail's age.

Emerging after the brief hearing, Mr McPhail told reporters of his belief that repeatedly heading the ball in his 17-year playing career caused pre-senile dementia.

Speaking slowly and deliberately and often appealing to his wife Ophelia to help him remember factual details of his battle, he recalled how he used to hit heavy leather footballs. The impact was often intensified, he said, by head clashes with other players leaping for the ball. "I was a great jumper. The balls were relieved of any pressure but they still smacked you," he said.

He also said that he believed success could open the door to similar claims by footballers of his vintage. His lawyer estimated that up to 50 or 60 players south of the border were in a similar predicament.

Mr McPhail said: "I wasn't a lone ranger."

Mrs McPhail said her husband had "a very bad memory problem on-going for ten years". She said her husband was entitled to the benefit after his contribution to football.



Head master: Former Celtic striker Billy McPhail, above, who says heading the ball led to his getting senile dementia

Photograph: PA

Asked to sum up the effects on their daily lives, she replied: "You try living with him for ten minutes. It's hard because his memory's gone."

Mr McPhail said: "I keep repeating myself, asking questions, I must be driving her nuts. My memory has gone, whatever she says to me, I have forgotten it."

His wife added: "His long-term memory is fine. It's his short-term memory that's the problem. He will have a conversation or the grandchildren will be there and then he'll say 'What was that about?' or 'Who was there?'"

Earlier, Mr McPhail said that doctors were the first to

make the link between his medical condition and career.

Dr Robert Hunter, who treats Mr McPhail at Glasgow's Gartnavel Hospital, submitted evidence, said Mr Murray.

He said: "The case has been adjourned owing to the fact that the tribunal has not had the opportunity to fully consider medical evidence that was submitted on Billy's behalf until this morning."

Although the evidence had been submitted more than four weeks ago, the appeal tribunal only received it 20 minutes before the start of the hearing, Mr Murray said. No date has been set for the hearing.



Labour MP cries foul over £200 fine

By Esther Leach

A LABOUR MP was fined a total of £200 yesterday for breaches of the Companies Act, protesting angrily that he had been forced by political opponents within his own party into a long-running legal battle.

Fabian Hamilton, 43, MP for North-east Leeds, and his former company, Serif Systems Limited, pleaded guilty at Morley magistrates' court to four breaches of the Companies Act including failing to display the name of the company and failing to ensure the register of directors had his full name of Uziell Hamilton.

The case had been brought by a member of the North-east Leeds Labour Party, Nick Whitehead.

Mr Hamilton's solicitor, Richard Lindley, said: "It is clear the proceedings were motivated by a desire to harm a political opponent. Neither the private prosecutor nor his backers had any connection with Mr Hamilton's former company as shareholders, employees or creditors."

"They used the Companies Act in a way in which it was never intended, to harm Mr Hamilton rather than to protect those for whom the legislation is in place."

Mr Whitehead left the court without making a statement.

Legal action was launched against Mr Hamilton and Serif Systems Limited following rejection by the Labour Party national executive of Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate chosen by the North-east Leeds constituency from an all-women shortlist for the 1997 election.

The NEC ordered a new selection procedure to take place this time without an all-women shortlist. Mr Hamilton was selected and endorsed by the national executive.

They were totally unqualified
to try the case of a lifetime...
but every underdog
has his day.

CASTING BY JILL KATZ
EDITED BY BARRY WALKIN
SCREENPLAY BY FRANKS FORD CAMPBELL
DIRECTED BY JOHN DAHL
PRODUCED BY FRANKS FORD CAMPBELL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JIM L. HANSEN, JIM L. HANSEN
PRODUCED BY JIM L. HANSEN
WRITTEN BY JIM L. HANSEN
STORY BY JIM L. HANSEN
CASTING BY JILL KATZ
EDITED BY BARRY WALKIN
SCREENPLAY BY FRANKS FORD CAMPBELL
DIRECTED BY JOHN DAHL
PRODUCED BY FRANKS FORD CAMPBELL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JIM L. HANSEN, JIM L. HANSEN
PRODUCED BY JIM L. HANSEN
WRITTEN BY JIM L. HANSEN
STORY BY JIM L. HANSEN

AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE FROM APRIL 24TH

SEEK OUT
PRESS FOR
DETAILS
ON DVD
SCOOT
0800
192 192
www.scot.co.uk

Bologna bomber slips back into society

The woman who planted a bomb that killed 85 people is out on day release. She talks exclusively to Anne Hanley

FRANCESCA MAMBRO is serving five life sentences for murder. At least, at night she is.

During the day, she leaves her prison cell and takes the underground into central Rome where she works at the Radical Party headquarters, organising protests against the death penalty.

One of her life sentences is for planting a bomb in Bologna station in August 1980, a bomb which left 85 people dead and injured 200. It is a crime that the former extreme-right terrorist has always denied committing. Her protestations of innocence cut little ice, however, with the families of those who died in the blast.

One week ago, Mambro joined a day-release programme for former terrorists. After 16 years behind bars, she returned - for the hours of daylight at least - to something resembling a normal life. There was no blaze of publicity, none of the acrimonious political partisanship which accompanied the five separate trials into the Bologna bombing over

Yet another day-release now fails to raise the kind of emotional outcry which greeted the decision to allow Red Brigades founder Renato Curcio to dedicate his waking hours to a small Roman publishing company in 1991. Few people would deny, however, that what to do with the flotsam of a group of people caught up in a revolutionary wave 20 years ago, and still paying the price long after the wave has receded, remains a problem.

Mambro is the first to admit that the issue is delicate. "I can understand the pain felt by people who lost loved ones," she said. "Thinking about the pain I caused gives me pain. It's something that I cannot forgive myself. But there is a time to forgive. Not to forget, but to forgive."

Mambro and her husband Valerio Fioravanti - also serving life for the Bologna bomb and still firmly behind bars - are extreme examples of the problem. Young - she was 20 and he 23 at the time of the blast - photogenic, and consistently adamant that the Bologna bomb was not amongst the crimes they freely admit to committing for the "cause", these two intelligent, articulate former fascists are unlikely lifers.

Yet despite their claims of innocence, they have been found guilty of post-war Italy's bloodiest mass-murder. And though they were firmly rooted in the world of extreme right groups responsible for many other fatal attacks, they have done little to help investigators get to the bottom of the many mysteries of the *anni di piombo*.

Mambro insists her past is over, that "I am a totally different person from the one that committed those crimes. Who doesn't change in the space of 20 years? The life I lived, the things I did, are completely foreign to me now."

This kind of evolution, she said, has been absent in the victims' association which has steadfastly refused to hedge from its original theory: "From a certain point," she argued, "it became very difficult, technically and emotionally, for them to turn back and admit that they had been wrong from the start."

There is a growing body of opinion on the right and left which believes Mambro and Fioravanti to be innocent of the Bologna blast. This faction, and those who simply feel that it is time to put the *anni di piombo* down to experience and begin with a clean slate, find

themselves up against the hard-line stance of pressure groups such as the victims' association.

"The time will come," said Mr Bolognesi, "when the real truth about those years comes out, when we find out what obscure powers were behind the terrorist attacks, and behind Bologna in particular. Until then, the people who carried them out should not be allowed privileges."

But for Sergio D'Elia, a former left-wing extremist who spent 12 years in prison, that time has already come: "Most of the terrorism trials ended in the late 80s," he said. "The guilty parties are serving, or have served, the extra-long sentences introduced under emergency laws. Yet people keep saying that the wound is too fresh. This can't go on. It's about time we started over."



Lifers Francesca Mambro and her husband Valerio Fioravanti at their sentencing for the Bologna station bombing

Photograph: EPA

'I understand the pain felt by people who lost loved ones. But there is a time to forgive'

10 years. But her new lifestyle has not gone unnoticed by those who consider her the murderer of their loved ones.

"We don't look on this development favourably at all," said Paolo Bolognesi, who heads the Association of Families of the Victims of the Bologna Bomb. "There are some terrorists whose crimes are so terrible that they should not be allowed such privileges. And Mambro is one of these."

Italy's prisons still hold around 220 relics from Italy's *anni di piombo* (years of lead), the period in the 1970s and early 80s when the country was torn by extremist terrorism of both left and right. Many of those involved in the bombings, shootings, kidnappings and kneecappings have served out their sentences, or been given reprieves after publicly repenting of, or disassociating themselves from, their bloody pasts. Of those still in jail, about half now go out to work each day.

20% DEPOSIT.

0% FINANCE OVER 3 YEARS.

100% CHUFFED.



Honey,
I shrunk the
car insurance!

Call the Motor Insurance Hotline now to see if you can shrink yours.

0345 123 111

Please quote ref. NPA

Hill House Hammond

Over 200 branches nationwide

INDEPENDENT
WIN Star Wars™: Masters of Teräs Käsi™
the new PlayStation game

Star Wars™ Masters of Teräs Käsi™ presents Star Wars™ in a way never seen before, using Luis Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, and Chewbacca as they battle the likes of Arden Lyn, Boba Fett, Thok and Hoar in a series of fierce hand-to-hand contests set in a variety of spectacular 3D environments.

The game centres on the mysterious Arden Lyn, a master of Teräs Käsi, an ancient martial art. Arden Lyn's sole purpose is to destroy the Rebel Alliance in one-on-one contests.

Featuring lethal hand-to-hand combat, such as lightsabers, blasters, and Force powers.

You can build up Force Power allowing for the execution of powerful moves unique to each character.

PlayStation 2 and PC compatible. All rights reserved. Winner picked at random after sales close 17 April 1998. Official Independent Newspaper rates apply. Editor's decision is final.

The game includes hundreds of possible moves, fully rendered 3D characters and environments and extremely lifelike movements. Battle arenas are set in familiar Star Wars locations such as Cloud City, Hoth, the Emperor's throne room and Tatooine.

We have 5 Star Wars PlayStation™ games to win courtesy of Virgin Interactive. To enter this competition fill in the number below, answer the following question on line and leave your name and full address.

Q: Who is the actor who starred as Han Solo in Star Wars?

Call 0930 563 555

Bravo HLX

- Remote control central locking and alarm.
- Power steering • ABS.
- Electric sunroof and mirrors.
- 6 speaker radio-cassette.
- Heated seats.
- Bravo range from £10,924.

FIAT BRAVO

CAR SHOWN FIAT BRAVO 1.8 HLX AT £14,457.13 ON THE ROAD (WITH METALLIC PAINT). PRICE INCLUDES £445 FOR DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATES, VAT, 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE AND 125 VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS 16/4/98. OFFER ENDS 31/5/98. 0% FINANCE OFFER REQUIRES A MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF 20% AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 AND OVER SUBJECT TO STATUS. THIS OFFER CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. A GUARANTEE AND/OR INDEMNITY MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM FIAT AUTO FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED, PO BOX 17003, EDINBURGH EH12 5VW

Finance Examples	Bravo 1.48	Bravo 1.6 HLX (Metallie)
Cash Price*	£10,923.90	£14,457.13
Deposit	£2,211.90	£2,901.13
Deposit %	20%	20%
Amount Financed	£8,712.00	£11,556.00
36 Monthly Repayments	£242.00	£321.00
Total Amount Payable	£10,923.90	£14,457.13
APR %	0.0%	0.0%

This'll put a smile on your face. You can buy a stunning Fiat Bravo for a mere 20% deposit. What Car? Magazine agrees and boasts "There isn't a more stylish car in the class." Call 0800 71 7000, <http://www.fiat.co.uk> or visit your local Fiat dealer for more information.

FIAT

Political repression and violations of human rights are increasing throughout Asia as economic crisis drives leaders to smother dissent.

Freedoms fade as sick Tigers turn on the weak

By Richard Lloyd Parry
in Tokyo

ONE MORNING two years ago Hendrik Sirait was waiting for a bus on a busy Jakarta street when a man walked up to him and started punching him in the face. Two more men - burly types with cropped hair and casual clothes - joined in the attack, which attracted the attention of two uniformed soldiers standing nearby. They ran over to help but were intercepted by one of the thugs who flashed an ID card and muttered something to them. Instead of breaking up the fight, the two soldiers shouldered their rifles, and joined in the beating of Mr Sirait.

He was dragged behind a building and forced, blindfolded and bleeding, into a car. In an interrogation room, five other men beat him, burned him with cigarettes and applied electric shocks to his car and thumbs. Mr Sirait, then a 24-year-old student and political activist, told them what- ever lies they wanted to hear: that he had organised a riot in Jakarta four days ear-

lier and had conspired to plant a bomb in the stock exchange.

For six days he was locked in a cell in his underwear before being transferred to a police station. A month after being snatched, after friends and family had given him up for dead, he was released. And from that time until this week, when he will testify before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, he has never been charged with a crime.

"These days, and especially in the last two months, it's become a common trick," says Endi, an Indonesian lawyer who is accompanying Mr Sirait. "They've used it in East Timor for a long time but now it's spread to the rest of Indonesia - targeting individual activists, kidnapping and terrorising them but then leaving the charges hanging over them."

Indonesia is only the biggest offender. Throughout Asia, in several countries worst hit by the recent financial crisis, there has been a corresponding rise in alleged violations of human rights.

Economic disaster encourages repression in several ways, of which the persecution of political dissidents is only the most obvious. "It's a political as well as an economic crisis," says Endi. "President Suharto is suffering a crisis of legitimacy and the police and military are trying to suppress those who speak out against him."

In 1998 alone, more than 300 Indonesians have been arrested for non-violent political activities; at least seven people have simply vanished, all of them political opponents of the Suharto government, all of them probably victims of a similar fate to Mr Sirait's.

Political activists are not the only victims. All over Asia there are large numbers of migrant workers, many illegal, who were tempted overseas by higher wages and better employment opportunities. With the abrupt end of the Asian miracle, countries which once relied upon illegal workers to build their proliferating roads and skyscrapers are faced with rising unemployment among their own people. Suddenly "illegals" are not welcome.

Some 17,000 such workers, mostly from Indonesia, have been rounded up in detention centres in Malaysia. Last month,



A student covers his face during clashes with police in Jatiangor, Java, yesterday, as thousands protest against government policies Photograph: Dudi Sugandi/Reuters

eight died during a violent police operation aimed at repatriating 6,000 of them; dozens entered foreign embassies in Kuala Lumpur, claiming they risk persecution by the Indonesian government if they are deported.

The inevitable increase in economic migrants will put pressure on even the richest nations. "In Japan, thousands of migrant workers accused of violating Japan's immigration laws are at serious risk of ill-treatment," says Rory Mungoven, Amnesty International's programme director for the Asia-Pacific. "Many suffer arbitrary punishments, humiliation and beatings at the hands of immigration bureau officials, charges denied by the Japanese authorities."

Economic hard times propagate racism and encourage people to scapegoat vulnerable minorities. Mohamad Mahathir, Prime Minister of Malaysia, notoriously hinted that the collapse of his currency was the work of a Jewish conspiracy masterminded by George Soros. In Indonesia, Chinese shops have been the object of riots. Some diplomats in Jakarta believe they were incited by the military.

As companies suffer economically, tensions also increase between managements and workers. In the Chinese province of Shanxi, a man named Li Qingdi is believed to be still in detention after putting up pro-

trade union posters in January. The short temperedness of the authorities appears to be leading to an increasingly brutal approach to crime prevention. In Jakarta, twice as many suspects were shot dead by police during the course of "arrest" in 1997 than in the previous year.

The death penalty is increasingly being used to punish non-violent "economic" crimes, even by relatively benign governments. Like that of the Philippines. "The economic cost and overcrowded conditions of death row are sometimes used as justifications for spates of executions, such as the 23 executed on one day in South Korea in December 1997," says Mr Mungoven.

So far, international attention is fixed on the region's economic troubles. Of the international envoys from Europe, the US and Japan who have urged Mr Suharto to stick to the International Monetary Fund programme, none has mentioned human rights. In the UN Commission in Geneva a European resolution has been drafted on Indonesian oppression in East Timor - but it may not gather adequate support, and is unlikely to comment on the wider situation in the country. Asians are more broke than they have been for years, and as their wealth evaporates, so does their freedom.

Living standards plummet as unemployment edges up

THE Asian financial crisis has caused a big fall in living standards and a large rise in unemployment. And it has occurred in countries which have no safety nets to deal with the social consequences of a sharp economic downturn, writes Stephen Yanes in Hong Kong.

A report released yesterday by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) provides the first comprehensive social picture of the fall-out. It says that not only is the crisis likely to be of longer duration than other economic downturns but it threatens to reverse the enormous gains East Asia has made towards alleviating poverty in the past two decades. In South Korea, the only hard-hit nation with any type of social security for the unemployed, unemployment is likely to triple from pre-crisis levels and incomes are expected to drop for the first time in 30 years.

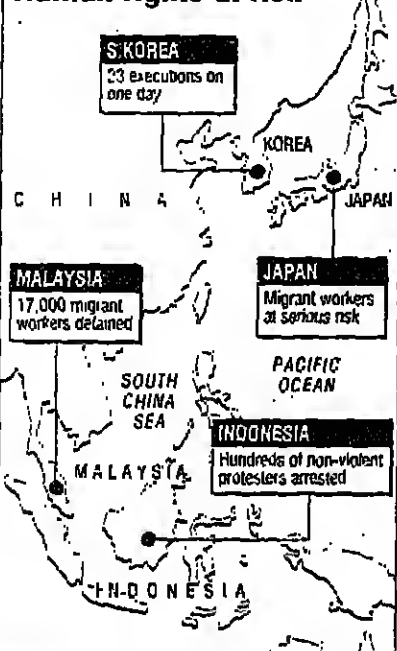
In Thailand, where workers are try-

ing to find work back in the countryside, which they left in search of riches in the towns, unemployment is likely to double to 5.6 per cent by the end of the year. Earnings, for those with jobs, may fall by as much as a third.

Concrete information is hard to get from Indonesia, which has done least to respond to the crisis. It seems likely the high pre-crisis unemployment rate of 5 per cent will triple, while hyper-inflation will dent living standards.

Launching the report in Hong Kong yesterday Eddy Lee, ILO chief policy analyst, said the situation facing Asian workers was unprecedented. After the last big financial crisis, in Mexico, there was a rapid recovery which largely wiped out the recession. Even in the ailing economies of the old Soviet bloc countries there were "very strong systems of social protection".

Human rights at risk



Great Crocodile risks jail for one last stand on apartheid

By Mary Brak
in Johannesburg

"EVEN IF they destroy me, they cannot destroy my soul and convictions."

That was the defiant parting shot yesterday from PW Botha, former South African president and overseer of one of the world's most immoral political systems, shortly before he was dragged away from reporters by his lawyers.

It was made after Mr Botha, 82, finally went on trial for defying an order to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to answer questions about his own role in apartheid-era atrocities.

As Mr Botha, with a thin smile, made his way towards a chair, softened by a thick blue cushion, next to the dock, he was raising two fingers to the TRC, which negotiated until the very last moment to avoid a court

case which could set back the uncertain progress of South Africa's bid for racial reconciliation.

The former Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who chairs the TRC, said he was "deeply distressed" that Mr Botha has rejected the opportunity to avoid charges which carry a £2,400 fine or two years in jail.

The stumbling block came after 24 hours of last-gasp negotiations. "Fundamentally for

Mr Botha, it stuck in his gut to appear before the commission," said Mr Tutu. "In his view the commission has humiliated his people."

Despite the hopes for a settlement, Mr Botha's defiant stand is entirely in keeping with his previous denunciations of the TRC as a witch-hunt against Afrikaners and his vow not to appear before a commission "circus".

Though he looked frail yes-

terday in court, where he appeared before a black judge, he was the same Mr Botha who took an earlier postponed hearing by surprise when, relishing the return of the political spotlight, he ranted for an hour in defence of apartheid.

As the TRC and Mr Botha's lawyers began their battle in the courtroom in George, on the south-east coast, the question was just what effect would the last stand by the Groot

Krokodil (Great Crocodile) have.

There was a marked absence of right-wing supporters outside the court yesterday but too much comfort should not be drawn from that. When Mr Botha spoke of his indestructible soul and convictions he was appealing to the many whites who are still hostile to the new South Africa.

They are the people who secretly applauded the stand of the

white parents of Vryburg High School who attacked black pupils attending their children's school, and who admire the resistance of Louis Luyt, South Africa's rugby chief, who is currently locked in a vicious battle with the government.

Mr Botha's refusal to repudiate the lies that justified the past - or to show even a sliver of regret - warns many of their hearts and infuriates perhaps as many blacks.

Yesterday Mr Tutu said that reactions to the case were varied.

"You have to think of those who have had a sense of outrage that they suffered pain and anguish at the time when 'Mr Botha was running the country,'" he said.

As South Africa's two-year-old truth and reconciliation process draws to a close, Mr Botha yesterday did nothing to narrow the divide.

Miele
BAGS MORE SUCTION THAN BAGLESS



You'll find with a Miele, there's bags of suction whenever you need it. In fact, independent tests* prove that Miele cleaners give you up to twice the suction power and dust collection capacity of the leading bagless cleaners. Not only do Miele cleaners have far superior suction to the leading bagless but they're also bags more convenient and hygienic too!

BAGS MORE CONVENIENT TOO!

The dust all ends up in an easy to dispose of bag which seals itself...no clouds of choking dust when emptying, no washing out of messy 'bagless' canisters and fewer time-wasting trips to the bin. And there's a free Turbobrush on all new purchases of S400 series cleaners until 25th April. Ask in store for details.

So you see, there are bags of reasons to choose Miele.

Miele
Anything else is a compromise

*Independent tests carried out to IEC Standard S12 on the leading bagless and Miele S400 Series vacuum cleaners.
For details of local Miele stockists call (during office hours) 01235 554455 Brochure line (24 hr) 01235 554488

Polluted Peking comes clean on its grime rate

By Ted Platter
in Peking

IT WAS Peking's worst-kept secret. Fouled by coal smoke, car exhausts and wind-blown dust, the city's air ranks among the world's dirtiest. The municipality monitored air quality for years but, unlike many other Chinese cities, Peking kept the results confidential. No longer. Since 28 February, Peking has released weekly reports on levels of nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and suspended particles. Daily reports are to start in June. A diplomat said it indicates a "remarkable shift towards talking turkey" on air pollution with the Chinese people. Such candour is unusual in China, where officials seldom encourage participation in civic affairs, and it reflects the government's frustration with the failure of traditional administrative measures. Never a bastion of environmental protection, China has seen pollution worsen dramatically as its industrial output and economic growth have soared over the past 15 years. In recent years it has sought to apply a "polluter pays" principle, fining enterprises that violate emission standards. New laws call for persistent polluters to be put out of business. The national environmental protection agency director, Xie Zhenhua, said recently that

China last year shut 65,000 such enterprises. But with enforcement lax and corruption rampant, many factories continue to operate in spite of orders to close. In a recent paper the American Sinologist Kenneth Lieberthal said factors such as direct involvement of officials in businesses, the weak authority of regulators, and political pressure to sustain growth all bode ill for China's pollution-control efforts. "The strong incentives to expand local employment and generate new wealth mean that the local government may conspire to blunt disciplinary actions." But, Mr Lieberthal added, greater openness is one trend that will, over time, help officials nationwide to "move in a direction more favourable to responsible environmental stewardship." In Peking, most air pollution is caused by the coal burned in the city and by a tripling in the number of cars over the past decade. Environmental officials are not lacking for methods to combat Peking's air pollution. They propose increasing the use of natural gas, upgrading to cleaner coal, and toughening car-emission standards. The use of leaded petrol has already been banned. In the first week of public reporting, Peking's air pollution was rated "medium" which, according to standards developed

by China, meant the elderly, the infirm, and small children would suffer "serious effects" after staying outdoors for prolonged periods. While precise details of the city's poor air quality were previously kept quiet, it has never been possible to hide the magnitude of the problem. New arrivals immediately notice the air's acrid smell. Long-time residents claim to be used to it, but many have chronic coughs that match the city's chronic haze. "This is long overdue," said a resident, Dai Qing, a former journalist and now one of China's foremost environmental activists, about the new reporting procedures.



The big smog: Traffic pollution helps make Peking one of the world's dirtiest city's

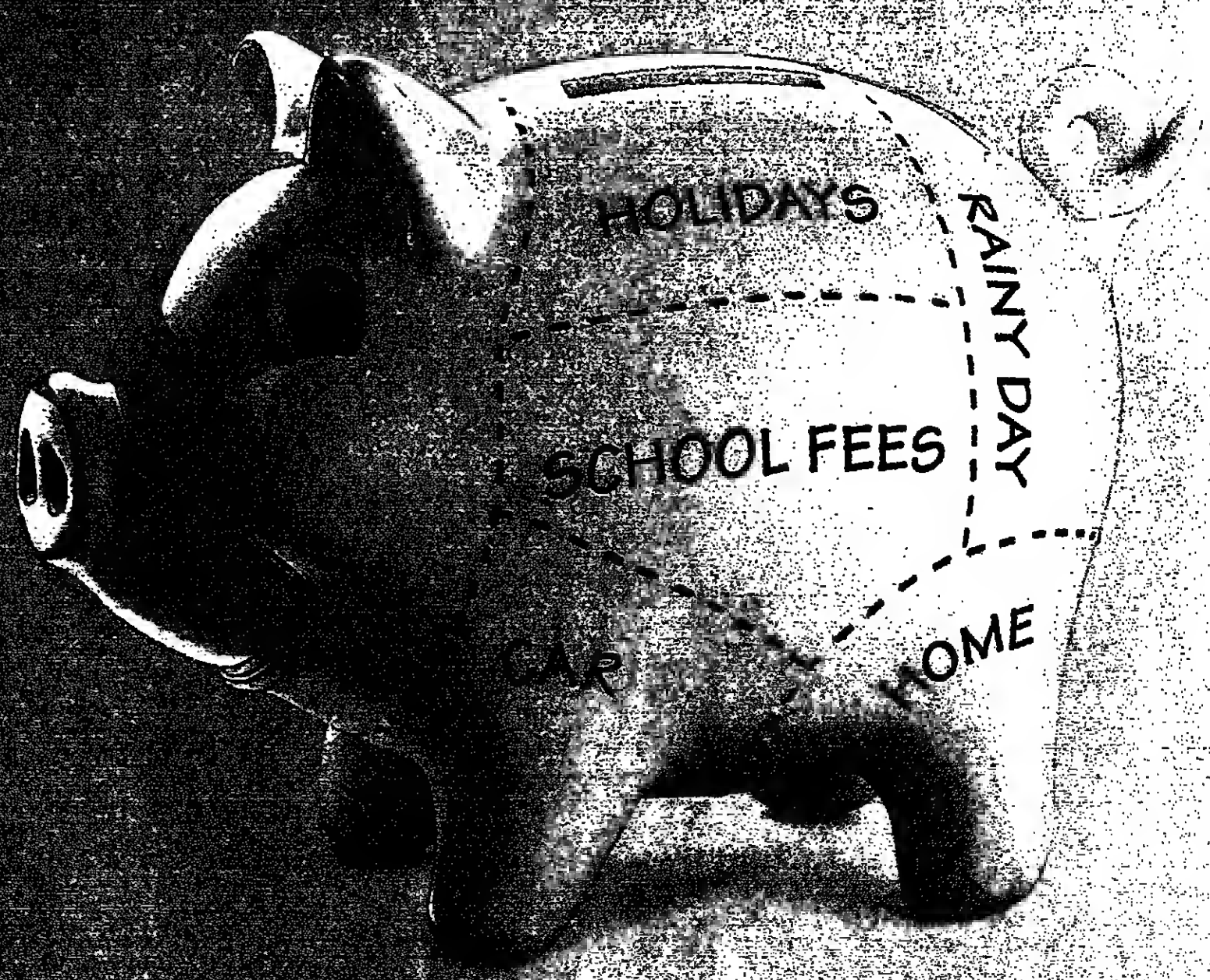
Photograph: Martti Kainulainen/Rex Features

French crave relief from rising clamour

FRANCE is getting noisier. A plague of sound is blighting the lives of its inhabitants, according to a report issued by a consultative body representing industrial, business and social groups, writes Adam LeBoe in Paris. Six million French people suffer from excess noise, mainly from public transport, particularly cars, railways, and low-flying planes, according to the report from the Economic and Social Council (CES). Worst hit is Paris, where 56 per cent of the population are affected, followed by 55 per cent in the suburbs. The problem is

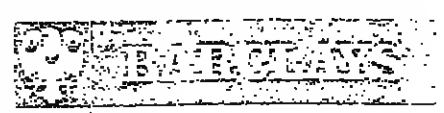
almost as bad in large towns and cities, although only 23 per cent of countryside dwellers are affected. Now the CES is pressing the environment minister, Dominique Voynet, to fine noise polluters and introduce strict noise levels to control everything from military airports to construction vehicles. As well as noise pollution, Paris suffers from increasingly severe atmospheric pollution. Last October levels rose so high that local authorities in the capital restricted car usage on different days to cars with alternately numbered registration plates.

Savings to suit you



Are you getting the most out of your savings? Why not talk to a Barclays Personal Banker. They have access to a unique new interactive computer system that helps tailor your savings to your needs. So why wait? Trot down to your local Barclays branch or call us today on 0800 400 100.

MAKING YOUR SAVINGS WORK HARDER



SWIFTCALL

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

FREE!

Australia	18p	N. Zealand	27p
Germany	12p	Pakistan	72p
Hong Kong	27p	S.Africa	34p
India	50p	Thailand	72p
Ireland	10p	UK	5p
Japan	20p	USA	8p

Call us today for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre-paid account.

0800 769 0033

Call 1800 794 381 if you live in Ireland.
1800 836 5005 if you live in the USA.

BUSINESS 0800 769 2222

Some of your offers are available 7 days a week. Holidays: When necessary based on a minimum pre-payment of £100. Our services are available to you today. Please contact us at 0800 769 0033.

Scientology tag hinders Yeltsin's man

By Phil Reeves in Moscow

THE STEEP path to power for Boris Yeltsin's youthful nominee for prime minister became rockier yesterday when Russia's parliament decided to investigate his alleged links with the Los Angeles-based Church of Scientology.

The lower chamber, the State Duma, voted to investigate claims that Sergei Kiriyenko took part in Scientology-related seminars while he was an unknown provincial banker in Nizhny Novgorod.

The decision is another skirmish in the battle of wits between the Communist-dominated parliament and Mr Yeltsin over the nomination of the 35-year-old Mr Kiriyenko as prime minister, replacing Viktor Chernomyrdin who was sacked last month, along with his cabinet.

The Duma's decision means several parliamentary committees will examine media reports that three years ago Mr Kiriyenko went to a week-long seminar organised by Hubbard College - which is run by the Scientologists - and donated money to the cause.

Scientology is regarded with profound suspicion by Russian officials. Leading the opposition is the Russian Orthodox Church, which is fighting to limit the rise of non-mainstream rivals on its turf. Fresh evidence of this came yesterday, with a Moscow Times report that an American Baptist missionary has been forced to abandon his church and leave the country by officials using a draconian law, signed by Mr Yeltsin last year, limiting non-Russian religions.

The fresh-faced prime minister designate will be acutely aware that any proof that he flirted with the teachings of L Ron Hubbard will not help his cause, though it is unclear what parliament would do with it. Mindful of this, Mr Kiriyenko - who initially tried to laugh off the allegations as an April Fool's joke - has toughened up his defences. Last Friday, just before his nomination was voted down by parliament, he was specific: he told the Duma he had "never in his life" had any contacts with "the mentioned sect of religion".

Despite this, the odds remain in favour of Mr Kiriyenko being confirmed in his new job, if only because his parliamentary opponents would rather keep their seats, and the attendant perks, than risk an early election. Yesterday they voted to refer the issue to the Constitutional Court, to establish whether Mr Yeltsin violated his own constitution by nominating Mr Kiriyenko after he was rejected by parliament. But the manoeuvre was unconvincing - if only because everyone knows that the court could take months to rule.

His nomination is due to be put to the vote in parliament again tomorrow, if he fails again, a third and final vote is expected on 24 April. Under the Russian constitution, three rejections would mean the dissolution of the Duma and new elections.

The Communist speaker of the Duma, Gennady Seleznyov, has announced his support for Mr Kiriyenko. But the Communist leadership, which has the largest faction in the 450-seat Duma, with 138 votes, remained opposed.



Talking point: A Hindu devotee piercing his tongue with a five-foot iron rod during the Gajan festival in the village of Bainan, west Bengal, this week; the festivities celebrate the marriage of Siva, one of the principle Hindu deities, and the goddess Parvati. Photograph: Jayanta Shaw/Reuters

Protests force release of Tehran's moderate mayor

IRANIAN officials confirmed that the Mayor of Tehran was freed on bail yesterday, after thousands of people took to the streets in his support, writes Sam Jary.

Intervention by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's senior spiritual leader, is believed to be the reason behind the release of Gholamhossein Karbaschi, arrested on corruption charges two weeks ago.

Some 4,000 students calling for the

release of the Mayor clashed with baton-wielding riot police in central Tehran on Tuesday, after he was accused of misappropriating public funds in a major corruption scandal unearthed in the municipal.

Mayor Karbaschi, a popular reformer who masterminded President Mohammad Khatami's election campaign in 1997, has said the accusations levelled at him were polit-

ically motivated. His arrest was ordered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, Iran's chief judge and a member of the hardline government faction opposed to reforms introduced by moderate supporters of President Khatami.

One source said Ayatollah Khamenei agreed to the release only after receiving a written appeal from the President, and holding discussions with former president Hashemi Raf-

sanjani, now head of the moderate Expediency Council. The intervention of three of Iran's top leaders has been seen as an effort by both the moderate and hardline factions to prevent their feud from escalating into anything more serious.

Iran News, the country's daily newspaper reported yesterday that the majlis, or parliament, had even held a rare private session on Tuesday to discuss the mayor's arrest.

Palestinian finally freed

ISRAEL freed Ahmed Katameh, its longest-serving Palestinian administrative detainee, after six years. Under a deal, he agreed to give an interview denouncing violence. A leader of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, he was interrogated for 100 days, and, when a court ruled he be freed on bail, security services slapped a detention order on him, which was renewed every six months.

— Eric Silver, Jerusalem

Olympic ideal

GREEK museums and archaeological sites will undergo 30bn drachmas (£60m) in renovations in readiness for the 2004 Olympics. Sites ranging from the Acropolis to the Temple of Olympian Zeus in central Athens will get accelerated facilities in anticipation of the hordes of tourists. Greece also expects to open 17 archaeological museums, mostly on the outskirts of Athens.

— AP Athens

Kosovo exodus

TENSION increased in Serbia's Kosovo province amid reports that Serbs were leaving their homes in the volatile border area of Decani. The Serbian Resistance Movement said families had fled because of "the appearance of armed and uniformed members of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army."

— Reuters, Pristina

Czech mates

THE lower house of the Czech Republic's parliament gave final approval to the country becoming one of the first former Soviet bloc members of Nato.

— Reuters, Prague

Axeman sentenced to death for murder

By Sam Jary

A 70-YEAR-OLD man, who raped and cut the arms off a teenage hitchhiker in 1978 has been sentenced to death for murdering a woman in his Florida home.

Lawrence Singleton, a former merchant seaman, showed little reaction as a judge convicted him of first-degree murder for stabbing Roxanne Hayes to death in February 1997.

Ms Hayes, 31, had been working as a prostitute when Singleton picked her up and took her to his house in the Orient Park area of Tampa. Her body was found after a passer-by saw Singleton attacking her and called the police. She had been stabbed seven times.

Boh Mitcham, the judge who passed sentence on Singleton, said the fact that she was a prostitute "in no way... diminished her right to life and the pursuit of happiness, or justifies the taking of her life."

Singleton's lawyers had ar-



Singleton: Hacked arms off teenager and killed prostitute

Ms Vincent, now left with prosthetic arms with metal hooks for hands, said she was relieved by the new sentence but added that she still did not believe in the death penalty.

"I didn't want to play God and don't want anyone's death on my hands," she said.

"But I think there's a little bit of relief. I think we can all put this behind us now."

Singleton denied raping and mutilating Ms Vincent but admitted to the murder of Ms Hayes.

He told reporters after his arrest: "I was framed the first time. But this time I did it." ■ Angel Francisco Beard, 32, a Paraguayan who murdered a Virginia woman in 1992, was executed by lethal injection over objections from the international community. Beard was sentenced for the attempted rape and murder of Ruth Dickie, a neighbour. He confessed but said he was under a Satanic curse.

— Reuters, Jarratt, Virginia

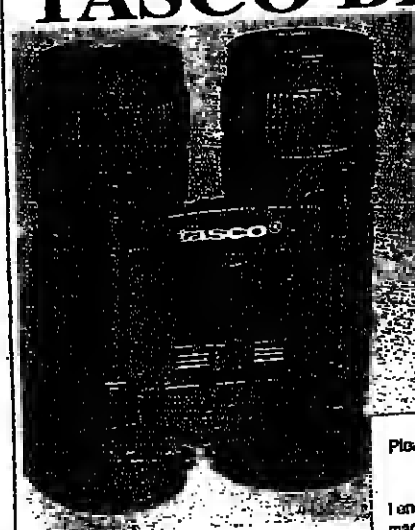
THE INDEPENDENT TASCO BINOCULARS

Just £24.99 each inc p&p

The suggested selling price for these Binoculars is £39.99 but we are able to offer them for just £24.99!

They are compact, lightweight binoculars from the world's leading name in optical products. They have 8 x 21mm magnification with sophisticated roof prism design. The folding body enables the binoculars to be carried conveniently and easily in the jacket pocket. The rubber protective covering is shockproof and guards against the occasional accidental knock. Supplied complete with pouch case and 10 year manufacturers guarantee.

All this at a knockout price of just £24.99 including postage and packing.



HOW TO ORDER
01753 642234
01753 648810

using your Credit Card or send completed coupon with crossed cheque or postal orders to:

THE INDEPENDENT BINOCULARS OFFER

PO Box 261, Slough SL2 3RU

Offer available UK mainland only. Please allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. You may return your order within 7 days if not completely satisfied.

The stock not affect your statutory rights.

Newspaper Publishing PLC Registered in England No. 1008867

Please send me Binocular(s) @ £24.99 per pair inc p&p

The total value being: £

I enclose a crossed cheque (with my Address on the back) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING INDENTS

Or please debit my ACCESS VISA Card account with the sum of: £

My card number is

My Name is (Mr/Ms/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

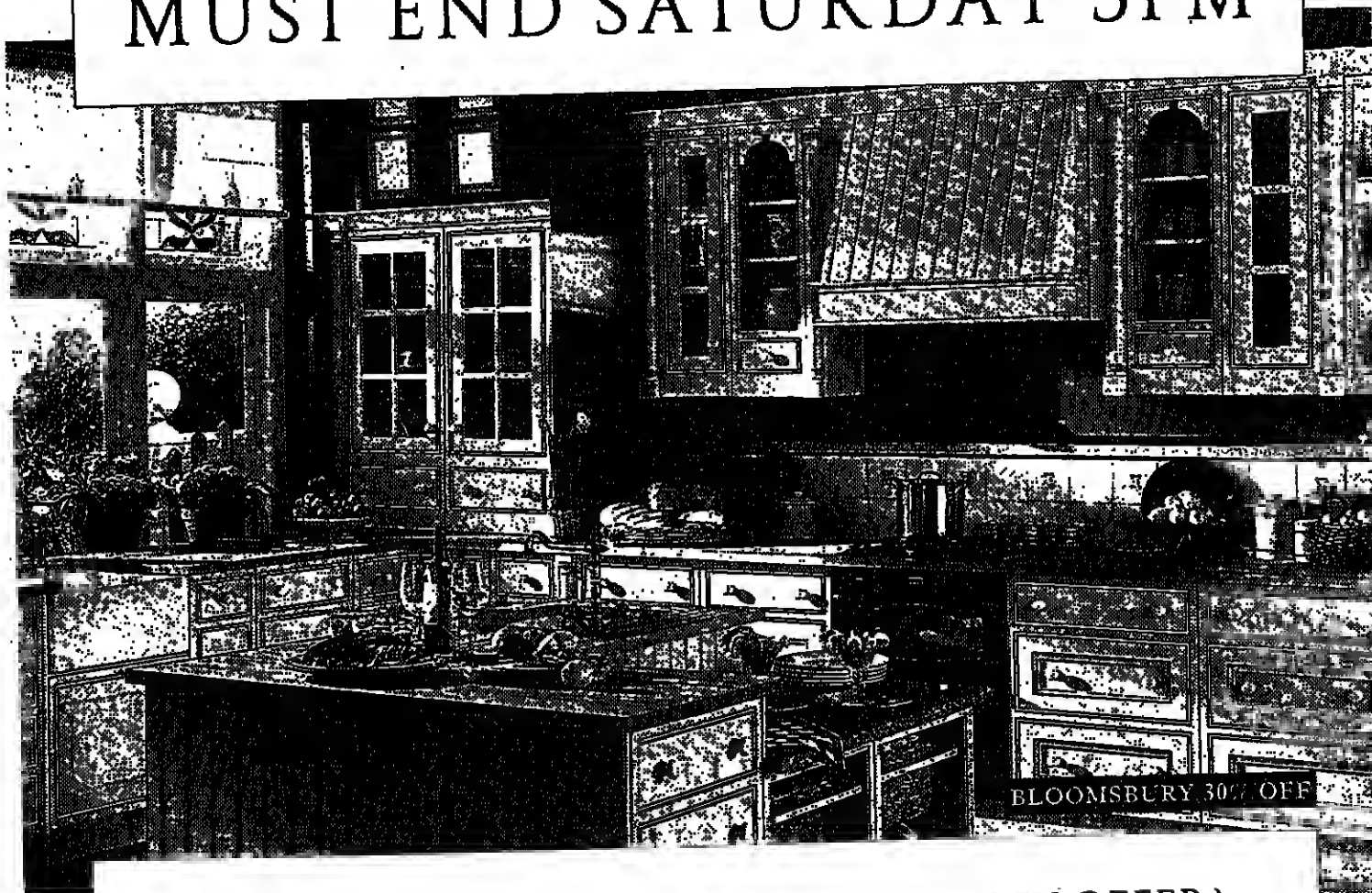
Send To: THE INDEPENDENT BINOCULARS OFFER

PO Box 261, Slough SL2 3RU Tel: 01753 642234 Fax: 01753 648810

Please note that this offer is not valid for repeat orders from NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC or for customers who have previously ordered from NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC

IND275

40% OFF
plus AN EXTRA 10% OFF*
MUST END SATURDAY 5PM



(NOW THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A TASTY OFFER)

At Magnet every single kitchen is designed not only to look stunningly beautiful, it's built to take everything life can throw at it. And right now there's a fantastic 40% off* most Magnet kitchen and bedroom cabinets, plus an extra 10% off this Easter week. There are some great offers on Whirlpool and other appliances too. Simply call in at your local Magnet showroom and find out why all Magnet products are designed for living and built for life. Your life. With over 200 stores nationwide there's bound to be a Magnet showroom near you. Telephone 0800 192 192 for details of your nearest store. Remember to quote code IND29

Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

*Opening hours: Monday to Sunday 9.0am-5.00pm. Selected branches open until 8.00pm on Thursday and 10.00am-4.00pm on Sunday. Check each branch for details. *Discounts on kitchens are off prices charged between 24th November and 24th December 1997. Discounts on built-ins are off prices to be charged after 24th May 1998. *Plus an extra 10% off pre-arranged prices when you spend £1000 or more



Let there be light: Scottish Power's Dewar Place sub-station in Edinburgh, which has won an award for its lighting (left). Ross Lovegrove with his Pod light, which is powered by the sun (below left). Photographs: Colin McPherson/Geraint Lewis

The age of enlightenment

"ARCHITECTURE is space and light," Le Corbusier said. But in Britain we are well behind the States in understanding that light is the fifth dimension in architecture. Lighting consultants in the US are as well known as architects, never mind the structural engineers. But not here.

The National Lighting Awards 1997/1998, due to be announced today, seek to change that perception, with categories for prizes in areas that affect every one of us: buildings/structures; roads; town centres/public amenities; commercial properties; lighting for leisure; and churches.

Over the past year, technical assessors have visited 47 sites on the shortlist, taking evidence from the users – and the neighbours – and studying the brief as well as the lighting designers' resolution.

Two awards in particular highlight a shift in the way we see things in the next century.

The British are a little late in switching on to the importance of lighting design. Nonie Niesewand explains

The first, for lighting a building or structure, is given to Speirs Associates in Edinburgh for an electricity power substation as big as a city block in the heart of Edinburgh which has been transformed with computerised coloured lights.

On Valentine's Day it is floodlit in reds and pinks and white. On St Andrew's day, it is blue and white. To make a kinetic sculpture out of an ugly industrial object with insubstantial light is magical. "There was a poetic sweetness for me as a lighting consultant to illuminate like a sculpture a piece of functional industrial equipment that transforms high voltage electricity," Jonathan Speirs explains.

Electricity power sub-stations are more than just a blot on the landscape. They are threatening, no-go areas behind fences with skull and crossbone warning signs. Scottish Power boldly highlighted this when they called in lighting consultants to transform the tired, old, battleship-grey sub-station at Dewar Place in Edinburgh.

Now, at night, it erupts into a blazing, computer-controlled mirage of illumination. Pink and green bars intersected with green and yellow are on a kinetic, computerised light programme, playing upon the big, sandstone, painted surfaces. Seven huge transformers, each 4m high, are lit by

low-energy, compact, fluorescent tubes and metal halide lights with dichroic filters. Even the porcelain insulators on stands turn into giant 3D light sculptures. During the day, the superstructure assumes a less obtrusive role painted in Scottish Power's thistle colours, purple and green.

The second award to blue-print changes in the next century is more philosophical, with a practical resolution in a special award for BDP Lighting at Sunderland University computing and IT systems block.

As we receive information on our computer screens – or TVs – we need less light to read it. Interiors must be dimmed so that we can read the screens. Around the world, light specifications for workplaces are falling.

In an open-plan block, designed Scandinavian-style to flood the place with natural light, BDP has specially de-

signed light fittings with Concord and Osram for computer and IT systems' students.

First, it controlled the daylight, then it built special up-lighters with perforations, offering good general light, while at work-top levels lights were dimmed. It may not seem radical, but this approach, as much as the design, is a forerunner for the way in which we all have to switch on to the next century – what Italian professor at the Domus Academy, Andrea Branzi, calls the new age of enlightenment.

But then, they take lighting more seriously in Italy especially during Euroloce, the lighting fair currently being held in Milan, the launchpad staged every other year for top names in lighting. Like hemlines, fashions in light fittings have been hitched up here, like Ingo Maurer's halogen cones on trapeze wires in the Eighties, or brought down, like



Magistretti's mushroom of a bedside light in the Seventies.

This year's Euroloce is the most inventive ever because it pays homage to the light bulb, the source, rather than designer-label packaging. Forget the fitting, good designers explore new light-carrying materials and then shape lights around that material. Fibre optics, lasers, holograms, plastic film that evenly and coolly

carries light for roadway signs or to light da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, solar-powered panels that store sunlight, are just some of the lights we will have in our own homes in the next century.

A highlight of the show is Pod, a light created by British designer Ross Lovegrove which is powered by the sun. Shaped like an Olympic torch with a crystal-clear lens that is

a photovoltaic cell to catch the sun and store it, you stab the aluminium stem into the earth and let it stand outside gathering sun all day. At night, it beams out light. Left in hot sunlight for eight hours, it gives light for 14 hours.

The idea came from cricket balls. It has taken two years to find a solar-powered panel capable of storing enough sunlight, Lovegrove says. He describes the result, which is very pure and natural, as the perfect balance between technology and the use of materials dictating the form.

With lighting, company Lucie Plan, he has developed Solar Bud, an outdoor light on 8ft-high poles, which looks like a butterfly chrysalis, pendulous in polycarbonate fluorescent. Cabled to a central switch, with a plug on its own free-standing base it can either hang from the stems like a standard lamp or be mounted on the wall.

Nothing new under the dome

The Millennium Dome is supposed to be a symbol of the modern age. But hasn't it been done before with the Dome of Discovery in the Festival of Britain? Sean O'Grady travels back in time to 1951

THERE IS not much left today to remind us of the last great national celebration of the future – the Festival of Britain which opened in May 1951. Most of the great monuments that were built to house the exhibitions on London's South Bank were demolished in the Fifties, leaving the Royal Festival Hall as the only vestige of post-austerity gaudy.

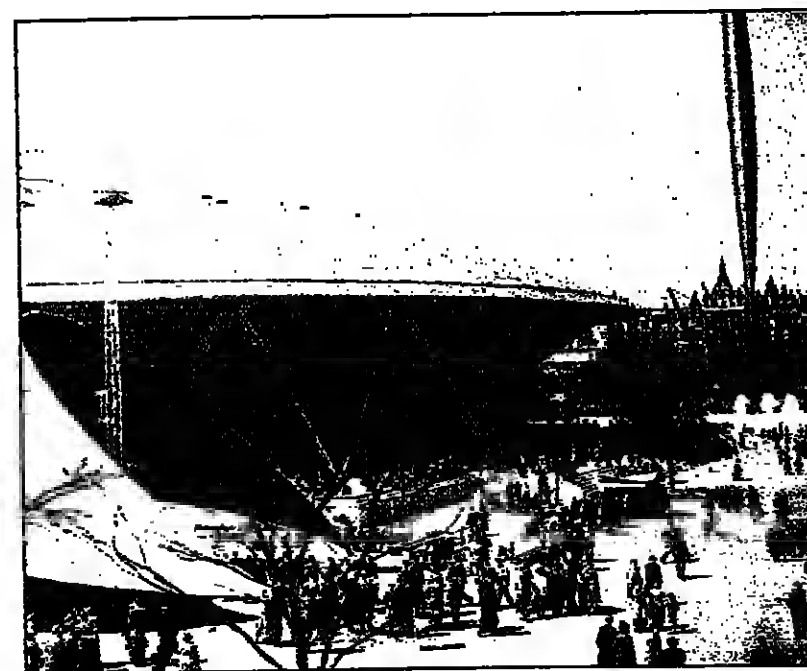
Yet, those who visited the Festival in 1951 may feel a strange and strong sense of déjà vu if they visit the Millennium Experience in Greenwich in 2000 (that's if it has been built as has been proposed). They may be as impressed about this venture and the reclamation of the Greenwich site as they were by its post-war predecessor.

As the Festival official guide put it: "One of the principal aims of the Festival is to bring to the British way of life some enrichment that will endure for long after the Festival year is over. It is fitting, therefore, that the main national exhibition should be the first occupant of a site which has so long been abandoned by human enterprise and so newly won from the river."

This time, of course, the site is further down the Thames, but the same spirit of regeneration is abroad. Spectators may enjoy – as he does – the historical neatness that puts Peter Mandelson in charge of an exhibition that echoes the one his grandfather, Herbert Morrison, was in charge of in the post-war Labour government, 50 years ago.

Indeed, Mr Mandelson lacks nothing of his granddad's political cunning and he, too, has taken a Conservative hostage – former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine who initiated the Millennium plans – just as his father enlisted a future Tory deputy PM, RA Butler. And the politician in charge is granted a jolly nickname – Dome Secretary for Mandelson and Lord Festival (after a Tory MP made a slip over his correct title, Lord President of the Council) for Morrison.

Then, as now, there was a lot of talk about what the celebration was all about, but few of us would be able to equal the



elegance of the Noel Coward composition "Don't make fun of the fair" in summing up a mood of national ambivalence: *Take a nip from your brandy flask / Scream and caper and shout / Don't give anyone time to ask / What the hell it is about.*

What indeed. If nothing else, the Millennium project is about a remarkable resemblance to the Festival of Britain – both in its themes and in its design. And most apparent of all is the use of a dome as a major venue.

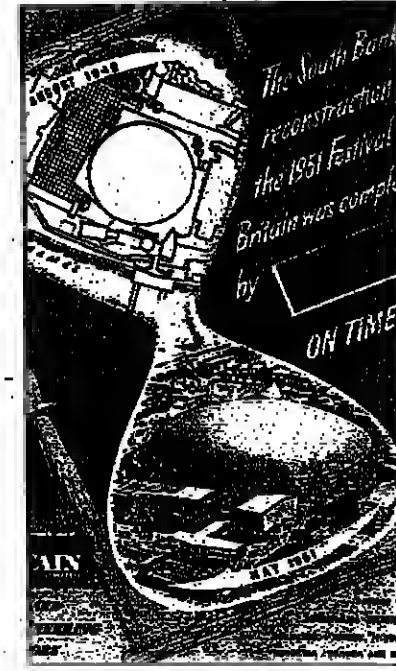
Choosing a dome can be justified on all sorts of grounds. It is a very space-efficient shape. And this will, for sure, be the biggest dome in the world, ever. It is going to be Teflon-coated. It will knock our socks off. But then in 1951 the biggest dome in the world was the Dome of Discovery, designed

by Ralph Tubbs for the South Bank exhibition.

It was all of 365ft in diameter and thus more than twice as large as the dome of the Pantheon in Rome and almost three times as large as the Dome of St Paul's. It was constructed – and on time – from prestressed concrete and steel with a super-light aluminium roof. Very advanced for its time and a fitting – and radically different – successor to Paxman's iron and glass Crystal Palace of 1851.

So, sock-knocking enormous as it is, the new Dome is still very much the son of the father, even if the new one has grown three times larger and is taller and prettier than its granddad. Mandelson's dome is magnificent but it is also, in truth, a bit retro.

Then we can check off some of the other



Welcome to the pleasuresome: The monument to the millennium owes rather a lot to the structure built for the Festival of Britain (far left). An advert from the guide to the Fifties' spectacular (left). Photograph: Hulton Getty

is precisely, though, what was attempted with some success in 1951, only then you had to buy your souvenir rock with ration coupons.

In fact, it is a pity that there are not more coincidences from 50 years ago. We are not talking about bringing back snook (whalemeat), a classed society or the Korean War. But the stylised "cool Britannia" logo of the time has not dated too badly and bears comparison with its dull successor. And the People of Britain pavilion's investigation into "how the British stock was blended" could be updated into a celebration of multiculturalism.

The most important point about 1951 remains, though, that eight million people visited the exhibition and that they enjoyed it. Mr Mandelson told the House of Commons this year: "If we fail to deliver it, we shall never be forgiven. If it succeeds, as I am confident it will, it will never be forgotten." The Dome Secretary is not the one person who has not forgotten Lord Festival's tricks.



On the wards of despair

When the MP George Galloway rescued Mariam Hamza, 4, from an Iraqi hospital it was a direct result of a plea by Felicity Arbuthnot. Here she describes the plight of the children she found

VISITING Iraq and seeing what is happening to its children is like peeling an onion. Every time one thinks one has peeled the last layer, there is another one underneath to make the eyes water even more. Although I have been there 11 times since the Gulf War, never have I been so shocked as the time I visited the hospital where little Mariam, the girl brought back from Iraq by MP George Galloway, was lying.

She was not the only one close to death in the Al Mansour hospital. There were others, too, fighting for life, many of them beyond treatment. Others could easily have been helped, but the seven-year embargo of Iraq, authorised by the United Nations Sanctions Committee, means there is a chronic shortage of pharmaceuticals. Many cancer treatments, in particular, have been vetoed because they contain minute traces of radiation.

In the daily children's cancer clinic, Dr Salma Al Haddad is mobbed by frantic parents, fighting for the lives of their children. Childhood cancers are estimated to have risen six-fold since the Gulf War, a rise which many experts have associated with the depleted uranium weapons used primarily by the United States and British forces during the Gulf War. The residual radioactive dust is estimated to remain radioactive for 4,000 million to 5,000 million years (sic), to travel where the wind blows.

Little Ali Makdoud was barely conscious, eyes flickering, his mother stroking desperately at his raised knees, as he lay on the examination couch, still sporting his pink and blue baseball cap. "This child is beyond treatment," said Dr Al Haddad. "Drugs are so scarce, we have to give to those who still benefit. Remissions become shorter and shorter as the disease overtakes, the last remission was just weeks, so we know we have failed."

His mother gathered him up, tears running down her face. She cuddled, stroked, she was frantic - her black-clad body curved over him as she left, in desperate protection, as if gathering to her the pain and grief and battling against the white blood cells destroying the immune system of her fledgling son. "A bone marrow transplant would work wonders," said Dr Al Haddad. Impossible since the embargo.

In the wards, Dr Al Haddad reviewed the cases that had been admitted: the possible but most tenuous of survivors. Esra is 17, slender and beautiful. The paralysis of her eyes does not prevent her, too, from crying silently. She knows she is dying, she wants to escape it, to return home, to re-



Patient: A boy aged three, suffering from TB, is comforted as he waits for treatment in a general ward at Al-Wiwha hospital. Photograph: Karen Robinson

turn to her studies, to live. The acute lymphoblastic leukaemia for which she has been treated for four years has affected her central nervous system, her left leg is also paralysed.

"It is the teenagers who break my heart," said Dr Al Haddad. "I feel I take all the children home with me, but these young ones especially. They are old enough to understand the truth, yet we cannot give them the psychological support they need. Also, we have no distractions now, not even television, books - there are no diversions, she is trapped, knowing she faces only death."

Al Haddad sat with her arms round Esra, talking gently, willing her to react, to smile. She has been crying for three weeks. Her father is trying to sell the family home in a final desperate effort to provide whatever medication is needed to give her a last chance.

In the corridor, the uncle of three-year-old Rabaz, ran up to Al Haddad and thrust a package into her hand. Rabaz is another statistic in the cancer increase. Another, enchanting toddler whose family is being crushed under the weight of their pain and passion that he should live. The small package contained the vital cancer drug. Rabaz's uncle had sold his entire household goods, furniture, his families' clothes, their small amount of marriage gold for

500mg of the drug. Rabaz needs 800mg every four weeks for a year.

Jassim, from Basra is 13. Until he became sick he had been selling cigarettes on the street to help out his family financially. He has not been told that his leukaemia has returned, though the staff feel he knows. His great dark eyes lit up with excitement at meeting someone who writes.

"More than anything, he wants to be a poet when he grows up - if he grows up. He produced an exercise book from under his pillow, Mickey Mouse decorated the cover. Inside, in beautifully written Arabic, were the poems he spends his days writing. One was called 'The Identity Card':

*The name is love,
The class is mindless,
The school is suffering,
The governorate is sadness,
The city is sighing,
The street is misery,
The home number is one thousand sighs.*

The story of Laila perhaps encapsulates the plight of the people of Iraq under the embargo and the complexities of the politics and propaganda, people caught between the rock and the hard place of the dispute between Baghdad and Washington and its allies.

Married at 14, Laila lives in a Baghdad suburb where prior to the embargo no one lacked for money. Her large home, now de-

void of furniture, belongs to her uncle, a prominent member of an Iraqi opposition group, living in exceptionally comfortable circumstances in Europe. When he left, her family agreed to move into the house in order to avoid its confiscation.

Amin aged seven and his father Khalil are the reason for the absolute poverty of the family. Because they died. "When Amin, who had never had a day's illness, came running into the house, it was a normal day," said Laila. "He had been playing outside with his friends, he complained suddenly of feeling sick, of a bad pain in his throat. I lay him on the floor, he suddenly seemed so weak, and put towels beside him, in case he was ill."

He became terribly ill. Rushed to the emergency unit of the local hospital, little Amin died within half an hour. Since autopsies are virtually impossible due to lack of facilities, no reason for his death has ever been established. As the hospital had no emergency resuscitation facilities his chances were, anyway, minimal. The family sold everything and buried little Amin, but they could not pay for a memorial and his small grave still lies mud-covered in the rains, slippery and unidentifiable.

When Amin died, his father, Khalil, who had lost his brother in the Gulf War - listed as "missing in action" in Kuwait - collapsed at a further family tragedy. He

refused all food, even when his aunt, a strong, religious and awesome woman, came to his home and said, citing a tradition deep in Iraqi hospitality: "I refuse to eat until you eat with me" (it is incumbent on a host to eat with guests). But he sat, broken, mute and refused all sustenance.

Khalil developed gangrene in his toes. The money for treatment was out of the question, so the disease spread further up his leg. The money was raised for the now necessary amputation which was carried out by surgeons who had studied in Britain and America. Khalil died soon after.

Laila put her head in her hands sobbing beyond any control. "We had not even enough to pay for the shroud cloth in which to bury him..." The neighbours again stepped in to wash and tend the body and then lay it in the ground, wrapped in cloth. Laila's family now live in almost unimaginable poverty.

In the 1930s Gertrude Bell wrote of the "...word which is the keynote of Iraq, it is romance. The huge Babylonian plains... once a garden of the world, the great twin rivers gloriously named... and last (to English ears not least) the enterprise, the rigours, the courage..."

Today, the courage of the ordinary people of Iraq has been tested to the limit. More than an estimated 1,200,000 children are believed to have died since sanctions were first put into place: the equivalent of 10, silent Hiroshimas.

That was why, when I was leaving Iraq just a day before George Galloway was arriving, I left him a message. Whatever you do, I said, go to Al Mansour Hospital and see the children. Mariam was the first child he visited. Yet, like Dr Al Haddad, he had to make a hard choice about who could respond to treatment. Slim as it is, she has the best chance of survival.



THE INDEPENDENT'S Iraq Appeal has raised nearly £83,000 to help treat more than 2,000 children suffering from leukaemia, believed by many to be caused by weapons used during the Gulf War. Please send cheques, made payable to The Independent Iraq Appeal, to: PO Box No 6870, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5BT.

How can I stop beating my husband?

DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

Joyce has only been married six months and four times has attacked her husband physically. Her husband has not retaliated, but feels frightened. How can she stop herself being so violent? The rows are usually about jealousy or feeling slighted.

IT'S INTERESTING that if Joyce had written saying her husband attacked her I'd be adamant that she should pack her bags and go to a battered wives home. If Joyce's husband wrote, I'd beg him to get treatment of some kind, preferably moving out of the family home until he'd got himself sorted out.

But when Joyce writes, I just feel sorry for her. Is it because, like most women, I've occasionally attacked people myself? (A fork aimed at my ex-husband, a cup of boiling tea at an

ex-boyfriend, even a bite on the cheek on the face of another, a wine glass smashed over the back of a girlfriend?) Or is it because I suspect that Joyce's husband is much stronger than her so he's never really at risk?

A man can usually check a woman just by pinning her arms behind her back, after all, so there's not really much to fear. Or is it because Joyce seems to be perceptive about her own reactions - she only resorts to violence when she's feeling under enormous threat, it seems?

You could argue that most violence starts this way, and even the man who comes home and finds his fried egg cooked less than to his liking and proceeds to beat the living daylight out of his wife is actually feeling that by not getting his egg right his wife is showing that she doesn't really care for or value him.

But sometimes male anger seems prompted more by cruelty than fear.

Perhaps Joyce should try the old techniques - counting to ten as she feels an attack of violence coming on, or hitting a wall or a cushion instead of her husband.

But sitting down and talking to her husband would certainly help take the steam out of the situations. Perhaps they could discuss strategies to help her. If he senses a violent mood coming on, maybe he should leave the house.

Or perhaps she'd find a holding operation comforting, like a young child. When a toddler's having a tantrum, after all, it's often kind to clasp him to you very tightly and make him feel safe and reassured.

When she was first married, a friend of mine's husband left her because of her violence.

When she married again she explained her problem to her second husband who didn't believe things could get that out of hand.

But when she first attacked him he responded with an automatic defence reaction by punching her in the face. They then both broke down and cried and she never attacked him again.

Whether it was the shock of retaliation that stopped her or the awareness, by his crying, of how hurt he was by her assault, who knows - and this story is only an example of how couples work rather than a piece of advice for Joyce's husband.

But perhaps he could explain to her how unloved and rejected he feels when she attacks him if, indeed, he does. Or perhaps they could talk through the kinds of situations that spark off the violent reactions.

Perhaps Joyce's husband is making her feel jealous with justification, or taking her for granted. Although the violence can't be justified perhaps her husband's behaviour drives Joyce to understandable distraction.

Joyce and her husband are newly married and emotions usually run high during the first year.

Although the marriage would be intolerable if her behaviour were to continue, if they can tackle it early enough and try to deal with the problem jointly, there may well be hope that this turns out to be nothing more than an ugly passing phase.

READERS REPLIES

Joyce is not really writing about her own dilemma but that of her husband. For the sake of them both he should obtain a divorce as soon as possible.

WH Cousins

This may sound surprising, but perhaps Joyce should consider taking up a martial art - and not so as to attack her husband more effectively!

Many martial arts are (despite their image) not inherently aggressive, and properly taught they can help people cope with feelings that lie behind violent behaviour - such as insecurity and frustration - in a safe context. And of course, her husband could come along too - then (at worst) she'll know he can defend himself better!

Charlie Harris, British Ki Aikido Association

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I'm middle-aged and perfectly healthy but on hearing that my life is almost totally sedentary, my doctor's said I should take more exercise. My problem is that I hate exercise of any kind. The only form I take is

when I'm running away from monsters in my dreams when I'm asleep. I loathe exercise classes, walking, swimming. Are there any good sug- any other fit people who never move a muscle? Yours sincerely, Dani

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning. If you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

Interflora

First Sam's dad abused him. Then his cellmates

Sam had been sexually abused. At 15 he was arrested and held on remand. Locked in a cell 23 hours a day, he endured constant threats from the older lags. It's unlikely Sam will get a jail sentence, but his time inside has taught him all about intimidation, theft and mugging.

The Children's Society is now helping Sam. As the only national charity working with 15 and 16 year olds on remand in prisons, we know there are better ways of turning boys away from crime.

If you believe every child deserves a decent chance in life, you believe in everything we stand for.

Call our 24 hour donation line: 0345 32 10 28 or complete the coupon below.

I wish to donate ☐ £20 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ Other £
I enclose a cheque made payable to The Children's Society. Or debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex ☐ Delta ☐ CAF ☐ Switch

Card No. Expiry date Issue No.

Name

Address

Postcode

Signature Date

☐ Please send me information on the work of The Children's Society. The Children's Society, FREEPOST BSH40, Edward Rudolf House, Room 2001, Margery Street, London WC1X 0BR. <http://www.the-childrens-society.org.uk> Charity Registration No. 221124

The Children's Society

A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales

THE INDEPENDENT

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT; EDITOR IN CHIEF: ANDREW MARR
DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Time for IRA to lay down its arms

JOHN HUME is a hero of ours. His interview in this newspaper today suggests that he is also a hero to many of his countrymen and women. But we feel that it would not be impertinent to warn him about the most serious flaw in his approach to moving the Good Friday settlement on. He tells David McKitterick: "I don't see the IRA handing over guns to a British government any more than I see loyalists handing over guns to anybody. The real question is whether they are serious when they say that they have stopped. What is important is their word."

Well, the IRA's word is important but we would feel rather more confident about the prospects for a total cessation of violence if, by handing in arms, the IRA and others could signal their acceptance of peaceful, democratic politics and thereby show that when they talk about peace they mean it. The existence of reserves of weapons provides a standing challenge to the survival of the peace process. The Good Friday agreement will help the Catholic community, make Catholic lives safer in the years to come - far safer than hoarded guns would. There is a republican case for peace. There is a republican case for decommissioning too.

The Good Friday agreement did not deliver "Brits out", a 32-county united Ireland or the promise of one. And if this is what some want to carry on fighting for, then there is no political answer to that. If, however, they regard it as a staging post, part of the normalisation of politics in Northern Ireland and a route to eventual unity by consent, then they need to help. Now the IRA has to have the courage to follow Gerry Adams into the arena of political action. And that means handing over some weaponry.

They should do so for three reasons. First, because not handing over weapons will give the Unionist rejectionists the excuse they desperately need. Asking the IRA to feel for David Trimble is a pretty bizarre thought; but moderate Unionists are struggling hard to sell what is a decent and honest compromise. About half of Trimble's parliamentary party are against the deal. The Orange Order have voted it down. And the man who really stands to gain from all this is the brooding bulk of the Rev Dr Ian Richard Kyle Paisley, with his appeal to hardline, especially working-class, Unionism - men and women for whom "No Surrender" is a way of life. In 1974 Paisley and other hard-line Unionists (including a young David Trimble) got stuck into wrecking the Sunningdale agreement. Trimble has come a long way since then. But for Paisley bigotry is an addiction. He remains a formidable obstacle to co-existence. A huffoon yes, and at 72 maybe an old one, but a dangerous and poisonous and menacing huffoon. If the IRA wish Mr Paisley and his party well, then they should hold on to every bullet, gun and timing device they have. It would play right up his street.

Of course they may still not give a damn about Paisley. If not, they should think about reason two: the murderous effect on their community of helping the UVF and the UDA keep their arms too. Do they want to see them back in business? The only case loyalist paramilitaries have - in their own terms - for their existence is the IRA. And the death toll from their attacks on innocent Catholics before the ceasefire exceeded the IRA's body count.

The third reason we could call leverage. With so many weapons lying around it would be hard for the IRA to police their own restraint. Fringe and dissident groups would raid the stockpiles. So, eventually, would purely criminal gangs. Everywhere in the world where large quantities of arms are stashed, someone gets hold of them and uses them eventually. In the properly civil society that Ireland hopes to become, these barnyard, forest and attic murder-stores are a menace. Sooner or later, republicans have to admit that.

There is a question of face: would it be seen as surrender? But here we can do more than echo the words of Martin McGuinness, who has repeatedly called for the removal of British security forces and the "demilitarisation" of what he calls the North of Ireland. This is precisely what they will see if they holster the peace process. The sight of British troops on the streets and the heavily fortified RUC posts in South Armagh could be erased sooner than they think. That may not be a British surrender and withdrawal on the colonial model but it is certainly not an orthodox military defeat for republicans. To use a metaphor from international politics, it is multilateral and not unilateral disarmament. The time for a republican peace has come.

Good art by bad men

WESTMINSTER Cathedral is being asked to remove Eric Gill's Stations of the Cross, on the grounds that the sculptor sexually abused his daughters and sisters. "Why should we have the work of a paedophile in our churches?" inquires a letter to the *Catholic Herald*.

At a time when society is, quite rightly, confronting the extent of child abuse and how we should treat its perpetrators, the question is pertinent. The short answer to the Christian Survivors of Sexual Abuse and other lobbyists who want Gill's work banished from England's most eminent Catholic church is that a lot of beauty - and holy beauty at that - has been created by paedophiles, rapists, thieves and adulterers down the centuries. Gill also invented many of the modernist print-types we use today - including that in which the headlines on this page are set. Should the posthumous purge of his work be extended to mere letters, or do only images count?

His work is not made any less compelling by the fact that the artist himself behaved immorally. This should not lead his defenders to seek to diminish the evil he did his sisters and daughters. But the late 20th century is remarkably puritanical about art. We believe that great artists should be more ethically, as well as aesthetically, gifted than the rest of us. That was never so. Brecht wrote great humanitarian plays and poetry while callously exploiting his female co-workers. Vivaldi's attentions to the orphan girls of Venice were questionable. Caravaggio was an admirer of underage boys. The great strength of the Christian tradition is that it leaves ultimate judgement in these matters to a higher being.

THE PEACE PROCESS ANNOYS MR. PAISLEY.....



'Choice' to die

I AM among the over-60s, but I certainly do not share the views of this age-group at a debate in Edinburgh, who Dr Phil Hammond claims were all in favour of voluntary euthanasia (*Health*, 14 April).

The dying process is a time to sort out "unfinished business". Being with my mother for her last hours was a valuable experience for both of us, one that would have been lost if "voluntary euthanasia" had been practised when it was clear that her death was imminent.

All rights depend on corresponding duties. If a person has a right to die, another person has a duty to kill. Few doctors or nurses join the medical profession in order to kill.

"Choice" depends on the choices offered. Many people, if offered the "choice" of euthanasia or poor care, would choose euthanasia. If they were offered proper hospice care, they would choose proper care. Since euthanasia is a cheaper option, there would be financial pressures favouring euthanasia and limiting proper care.

DAVE PARRY
Westhill, Aberdeenshire

"LET'S HAVE a referendum" urges Dr Phil Hammond ("Time to put euthanasia to the vote", 14 April).

As a full-time health service chaplain with a lot of experience of the hospice/palliative care setting, I have to say that it is surprisingly rare to find or even hear of terminally ill patients asking for medicals to take active steps to end their lives. Their concerns are rather more for their pain, anxiety, discomfort, nausea etc. to be addressed.

I am not against "euthanasia" - although "mercy killing" is a much more accurate phrase - per se. In fact I find much more common ground with "pro choice" views than I do with the "anti-euthanasia" lobby. What I cannot see, though, is how legislation could ever effectively be worded and policed to ensure that a "right to die" doesn't become a "duty to die".

Referenda are not the way to de-

cide complex social/moral issues. The British public would happily vote for the reintroduction of capital punishment and a host of other things repugnant to the liberal views your newspaper (and presumably Dr Hammond) champions.

Let's not have a referendum - not on this or any other social/moral issues.

THE REV GRAEME HANCOCKS
House of Lords
Southampton

Join up for the euro

WITH the country facing industrial recession (report, 6 April) if the strong pound continues, it surely is time for the Government urgently to review its determination not to enter the euro in the first wave. An over-cautious attitude could well mean that our country will face far more serious risk in the longer term than the risks of entering the euro at its launch.

There are strong grounds these days for the belief that the euro, when launched, may be a very much stronger currency than originally anticipated. The European Union, as an economic unit, will be a substantial creditor internationally. Overall it will enjoy an important trade surplus.

Contrast this with the dollar. Although the United States is a very strong economy, nevertheless it also has an enormous international debt with a very substantial and growing trade deficit.

We've seen in recent times the price of gold falling rapidly and the central banks, who have been dogging their holdings, may very well decide to make the euro a reserve currency rather than rely exclusively on the US dollar. There are also undoubted signs of strength and growth now in the key economies of the EU.

These factors all point to the fact

that the euro may well be launched under far better circumstances than its critics had heretofore expected.

Is there not everything to be said for a determined effort now to seek to join the euro at its launch, to have a national campaign on a referendum to approve this decision before the next election rather than risk a repudiation of the recurring tale of our country in relation to the EU - trying to catch the train after it has left the station with all its concomitant difficulties?

LORD HOOSON
House of Lords
London SW1

Heal the Blood Service

AS THE former donor services manager for the National Blood Service in East Anglia, removed for disagreeing with the plans of zonal managers, I am pleased and relieved that Professor Cash's report has uncovered the true depths of bungling, bullying and fear to which the staff in the service have been subjected by their management ("NHS sacks blood boss", 9 April).

In the case of the Cambridge Blood Centre, the donor services department had been picked out as the best in the service by management consultants. To have to watch this fine work destroyed, to see dedicated and motivated staff lose their jobs, has been heartbreaking.

I wish the new chairman success in finding his way through the mire of internal politics which has riven the service and brought it to its knees. I hope that he will consider righting some of the injustices which have been perpetrated and that he will lead the service into a new era in which the heart and vigour of the staff can be directed toward regaining its reputation for integrity and decency.

PATRICIA SQUIRES
Wicken, Cambridgeshire

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Badly off in London

LONDONERS do not get a fair share of Government spending, as the facts in your article "London overshadows regions in fight for funds" (7 April) demonstrate. You report that "identifiable" spending per head in 1995-6 was £4,228 for Londoners, compared with £3,754 in the rest of England; and £4,452, £4,682 and £5,211 in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, respectively.

As you point out, these figures include spending on London facilities which benefit much of the rest of England - for example, the teaching hospitals. When you take into consideration the much higher costs in London (according to Reward Group calculations, the average family in London requires 24 per cent more income to maintain an equivalent standard of living to the rest of the country), the figure of 12.6 per cent increase of government spending in London amounts to relative underfunding in real terms.

There is sadly considerably more poverty in London than in the rest of England: 14 of the poorest 20 regions in England are in the Capital. In view of the figures you report, it is inaccurate to conclude that "London overshadows the regions".

JEFFREY ARCHER
(Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare)
London SE1

Master of the Titanic

I LOVED Miles Kingdon's fantasy conflation of Noel Coward and the *Titanic* (15 April). But, as ever, the Master got there first: in his patriotic blockbuster, *Cavalcade*, Scene V is set on board an Atlantic liner. The dialogue is pure Coward: "Edith! It's too big! The Atlantic isn't it? Edward! Far too big!" (Winston and DiCaprio, eat your hearts out).

The lovers continue in this mode for four pages, only when Edith picks up her cloak from the rail is the ship's name revealed: *SS Titanic*. In 1931 this sort of stuff brought gasps from the audience.

PHILIP HOARE
London N1

Now you too can be reviled and humiliated in six languages



MILES KINGDON

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

VOULEZ-VOUS parler Français comme M Tony Blair? Möchten Sie Deutsch ebenso gut wie Herr Blair sprechen?

Quiere Vd hablar Español como Señor Antonio Blair? In other words, would you like to share in Tony Blair's linguistic renaissance?

Yes, at last we have a prime minister of Britain who can talk other languages and make himself understood by foreigners! Ted Heath's French accent was the laughing-stock of England, never mind France, and Mrs Thatcher's attempts at speaking French are well remembered in the archives of

many a radio comedy quiz, while John Major... well, quite frankly, we can't remember anything about John Major.

But in Tony Blair we have a leader whose polyglot ability we can at last be proud of. A leader who can go to France and address their parliament. A leader who can go to Germany and ask Herr Kohl for directions. Who can pick up the phone to Italy and chat to the top man there.

And now at last YOU can share Tony Blair's linguistic abilities!

Thanks to the PMV (Prime Minister's Voice) technique, you will be fluent within weeks, because the Blairphone Language Course will enable you

almost immediately to say the following vital phrases in the appropriate language.

FRENCH

1. "I have come to your lovely country..."
2. "To buy some beef on the bone..."
3. "Because we cannot get it in England..."
4. "This is because we have still got Mad Jack Disease..."
5. "Still, YOU have still got rabies..."
6. "So we must insist on keeping quarantine for dogs..."
7. "It looks like stalemate for our beef to Europe..."
8. "We cannot export any of our beef to Europe..."
9. "YOU cannot bring your pet poodles on holiday to Britain..."

10. "I wonder who will blink first?"

SPANISH

1. "Hello..."
2. "And welcome..."
3. "Would you like some fish, señor?"
4. "Would you like some of our fish, señor?"
5. "Oh, You have got some of our fish already..."
6. "You have got lots of our fish..."
7. "You have got all of our fish..."
8. "Can we have our fish back, señor?"
9. "Can we have some of our fish back?"
10. "Please?"

ITALIAN

1. "Hello?"
2. "Can you put me through to whoever is in charge this

week?"

3. "Hello!"
4. "It's about my friend Rupert..."
5. "Yes..."
6. "Yes, it's about the same business I rang about last week..."
7. "He wanted to know if you'd changed your mind..."
8. "You haven't changed your mind..."
9. "I'll let him know..."
10. "Goodbye!"

CHINESE

1. "Tibet? That's fine by us..."
2. "Torture? No problem..."
3. "Human spare parts? Seems reasonable..."
4. "Look, my friend Rupert wants to know..."
5. "... if he can take a major role in..."

6. "... the burgeoning Chinese telecommunications field..."

7. "... because he's not getting any younger..."
8. "I see..."
9. "I'm sorry to hear that..."
10. "I'll let him know. Goodbye!"

GERMAN

1. "Hello..."
2. "My name is Tony..."
3. "I am the chairman of Europe for the next six months..."
4. "Basically, my aim will be to avoid falling on a banana skin..."
5. "The best way to do this is to make it appear that other people are falling on banana skins..."
6. "So if, during the next year, there are lots of stories in the papers about Germany's economic woes and troubles..."

7. "... and your bitter internal divisions about the single European currency..."

8. "Don't worry!"
9. "It's only my spin doctor Mr Campbell putting them there..."
10. "Bye-bye!"

HEBREW

1. "Hello..."
2. "My name is Robin..."
3. "I have come to see the way you Israelis have been brutalising the Palestinians..."

Stop Press: The Hebrew section of the course has unexpectedly had to be withdrawn at short notice.

Do you want the rest of the Blairphone language course? Just send an SAE and a blank cheque...



A united message to the UN – it is time to change strategy



RUPERT CORNWELL
ON SANCTIONS

ON THE face of it they are envoys with nothing in common, other than that their destinations were in the Middle East. One is a turbulent Labour politician who was in Iraq to bring back a four-year-old girl with leukaemia, for treatment in Britain. The other is a father whose daughter died at Lockerbie, who travelled to Cairo to enlist the head of the Arab League to his campaign to secure justice for the victims of the disaster. But in their different ways, George Galloway MP and Dr Jim Swire are reflections of a truth which can no longer be ignored – that United Nations sanctions don't work.

It is almost 10 years ago that PanAm Flight 103 blew up in midair over Scotland, killing 270 people. Despite every effort by Britain, the US and the UN, the two Libyans accused of the crime have never been handed over to face trial. Seven years have now passed since Saddam Hussein's Gulf War defeat. But sanctions, attempted coups and global demonization, have failed to remove either him or his arsenal of chemical and biological weapons.

It is easy to mock Mr Galloway. There have been others before him who have attempted to deal with unpleasant regimes. Usually they are branded as appeasers: acting at best from starry-eyed naivete, at worst from a lust for publicity and controversy. Mr Galloway is accused of all of the above. Why Marianne Hamza, whose husband was killed in the Gulf, is allowed to travel to Iraq, while Mr Galloway is not, is a question of hypocrisy. Mr Galloway is accused of all of the above. Why Marianne Hamza, whose husband was killed in the Gulf, is allowed to travel to Iraq, while Mr Galloway is not, is a question of hypocrisy.

But that only re-inforces Mr Galloway's point. He may be a sharp-elbowed political opportunist, who is crassly handing Saddam a giant propaganda coup. But don't reject the messenger because you don't mind care for the message. Sanctions are a soft option, a substitute for clear thinking. They are warfare by economic means, which imposes no loss of life (at least on those who impose them), and fudges the difficult questions. What are we trying to do in Iraq? Get rid of Saddam? Get rid of his war machine? Are we trying to make him a "responsible member of the international community"? Or are they mainly to persuade ourselves we are doing something?

Inevitably, sanctions get broken. Even if the violations amount to just a crack in the wall rather than a gaping hole, they tend to be enough to make the exercise largely

pointless. But with Communism gone, they help fulfil our need for easily identifiable enemies. They pinpoint the bad guys, the "rogue states" and "pariah regimes," as the obligatory clichés have it. As required, the sense of danger may be stoked by scare stories: how Colonel Ghaddafi is spending billions of dollars on a secret chemical weapons complex beneath the Libyan desert, how Saddam is plotting to lace duty free alcohol and perfume with anthrax spores.

So the sanctions juggernaut rolls on, irrespective of whether it is achieving its purpose. Invariably, its weight falls upon the ordinary population while the regime against which sanctions are aimed goes about its business, waiting for nothing. We may believe the suffering will persuade the people to rise against their iniquitous rulers. But in a brutal dictatorship like Iraq (where 1,500 political executions have been carried out in the last 12 months alone, according to a UN report this week), that is wishful thinking of an almost criminal order.

Or take Libya. How much discomfort sanctions are exerting on either the Tripoli Government or the civilian population is debatable. But they haven't succeeded – and quite certainly never will succeed – in their official objective of forcing Colonel Ghaddafi to hand over Abdul Basset Ali Al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah for trial in either Scotland or the US. That much has been recognized by Dr Swire and other relatives of the Lockerbie victims (surely those with the largest moral say in the matter) who have proposed the suspects be tried in a neutral country under Scottish legal procedures.

To break the impasse, they have even offered to replace the traditional jury with an international panel of judges, to meet Libyan objections that it would be impossible to find 12 good Scots and true who had not been influenced by pre-trial publicity. What is good enough for the bereaved should be good enough for the British and American governments. But these shelter behind the letter of sanctions, and in doing so, merely harden the belief of conspiracy theorists that they don't want to go to court at all.

But if not sanctions, it will be asked, then what? Of course there are no easy answers. But some alternatives do spring to mind. The Lockerbie case, for instance, is surely tailor-made for the permanent International Criminal Court which could be up and running by the end of the year: if the deliberate blowing up of 270 people of several nationalities, with whom you have no connection whatsoever, is not a crime against humanity, then what is?

Saddam too is a prime candidate for trial by the ICC, even in absentia. Or we could encourage and recognize an Iraqi government in exile, or intensify covert action against Saddam. Yes, the CIA is legally barred from attempting to assassinate foreign leaders – but isn't that what we want?

Almost any option would be at least as good as sanctions. They didn't work in South Africa. They didn't work in Zimbabwe. Even America, which by one count operates some kind of sanctions against over 50 countries, is finally showing signs of recognising its attempts to seal off Cuba and Iran have been even more futile. Nor will sanctions work against Iraq and Libya. If the missions of Mr Galloway and Dr Swire achieve nothing else, they will have served a purpose if they drive that lesson home.

How I discovered Zen and the art of adding a string to your bow

JOHN WALSH'S DIARY

THE path to enlightenment can involve some crazy paving. There I was last week, on holiday in Sicily, contemplating the freezing Mediterranean in the middle of a heatwave. It was the kind of holiday which offered a range of sporting activities, which is fine provided you're not, like me, comprehensively crap at every manifestation of a) activity and b) sport.

But somewhere in the list of fun-packed events, it said "Archery". Right, I thought – bows and arrows, Robin Hood, nice big round targets, the memory of once winning a mirror engraved with Toulouse-Lautrec designs at an archery stall on Hampstead Heath. It can't be all that demanding, I went along.

It was not a promising scene. A German cove called Sven oversaw the efforts of six middle-aged chaps and a couple of skinny youths as they unloaded quivers of carbon arrows into the outer rings of the targets a few feet in front of them. I was given a bow, all streamlined fibreglass and sculpted wood. You put three fingers here, said Sven with infinite patience, fit the arrow in there, don't yank the string, just draw it back until the feathers are right beside your eye, keep that shoulder down, now let go of the string.

And it was all very pleasant, in its way, though nothing you'd write to your Auntie Flo about. A certain rhythm was soon established. On the word "Shoot!" we fired three arrows, one, two, three, and on the word "Fleche!", we sauntered up and extracted them from the targets (or the straw support, or the sandy ground, or the breast of a passing malar, or wherever else they'd ended up). They were embedded in the black, the blue, the red... We marvelled at the way the arrows never hit the same part of the target twice, and certainly never where you wanted them to. It's a combination of the predictable and the aleatoric, I told myself, that explains archery's appeal. You shoot arrows over and over again, but never know where they'll go. Back and forth we traipsed, like participants in some cruel punishment, while Sven's see-saw cry of "Shoot!" and "Fleche!" became a dubi-



Tights set: John Walsh aims arrows in on another bulls-eye

ous subliminal command: shoot flesh.

Frankly I'd had enough after an hour, but I went back a couple of days later. "I think you need a bigger bow," said Sven. "Try this one. It's my own" – and he handed me a massive, Ulysses-defeating thing whose cord I could barely twang. I fitted an arrow, pulled it back until I could see the yellow centre of the target along its length, and let go. Bulls-eye, inner ring, Gosh. I thought, and fitted another arrow. Another bulls-eye, even more bang in the centre of the inner circle than before. Thinking, "What the hell?" I fitted a third arrow and squinted down it. The target's yellow core seemed the size of a dustbin lid. I fired. This time the arrow landed slightly to the right of the others, but incontrovertibly in the centre.

"Chohn," said Sven, admiringly. "29 out of a possible 30. What has happened to you?" Feeling oddly apprehensive, I took aim again. I pulled back the string so far, the back end of the arrow touched my eyebrow. Twang. Bulls-eye. In a trance I did it again. Twang. Bulls-eye. Twang. Bulls-eye. "Er, Sven..." I called, showing off to the teacher. Together we approached the target. I'd scored thirty, the maximum. One arrow had even gone through the tiny crosshairs at the centre of the inner ring. "Nice grouping," said Sven dryly. "You've become more comfortable with the bow, yes?"

"No, Sven," I said. "I have become the arrow."

I must point out that I don't usually go around talking hollocks to strangers, let alone German strangers, on the

shores of the Med. But this was different. I was in the grip of an epiphany as intense and glowing as an acid trip, and didn't care how it sounded. I who had never been good at sport, had discovered one in which to shine. It had suddenly taken me over. Whatever I wanted the arrow to do, it did it (and at some speed). Wherever I wanted it to go, it went. Between my eye and the target there was now simply a beam of light, a laser-ray of pure willpower. When the French lady beside me said "Tres jolie, monsieur" about three more bulls-eyes, I explained my secret ("Je deviens la fleche, madame, c'est tout") and pointed out that the photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson's favourite book was *The Zen of Archery*. My co-archers, that sad bunch of amateurs, asked me for advice – like why

did the twanging string always graze their arm? – and I was happy to oblige. "You must hold your arm comme cela," I told them. "Slightly arched, like a... like another bow". I meditated on the arrow's sharp tip. It was not just a point. I now realised, but the point, the point of life...

This was fantastic. I'd become a Zen archery master in the middle of my second lesson. I confess I hammed it up, just slightly. I took to aiming the arrow at the ground and slowly, with a priestly slowness (like Richard Greene, the original TV Robin Hood, or indeed John McEnroe) raising it up while heathing a long, inspirational breath. After a while I didn't bother looking to see which bit of the yellow I'd hit until I walked up to collect the arrows. "You seem to have cracked it, old boy," said a grumpy Englishman, removing his armband. Cracked it? I snorted. This isn't about trickery, mate. This isn't some hand-eye-co-ordination crap. This is about beauty and truth. This is a mystical conjunction between man and primitive missile.

Suddenly I knew how it must feel to be a famous beauty, who can't understand what all the fuss is about ("I just walk like this and pout like that and collect the money. What's the problem?"). I thanked Providence I'd discovered my Amadean genius before it was too late...

You're expecting me to say the whole thing was a dream? But it wasn't. It was real. But it was only real for a while. By the time the tournament dawned, two days later, I'd forgotten how to stand properly, and my shoulder was raised too high, and four or five of my arrows thunked shamefully into the red. "I donno, Chohn," said Sven, "It's chust not your day". I was beaten into second place by some Palermo delinquent. Suddenly I was back to being just like everybody else. I tried not to feel bitter (especially so soon after achieving Enlightenment) but something was definitely lost to me, and something definitely gained. I didn't know any more how it felt to be Bergkamp and the rest. But I sure knew how it felt to be Tiger Woods.

After the peace deal, what is it to be Irish?

I AM Irish. Then again I'm not. For, while I share Irish obsessions with land and language, music and mythology, religion and rebellion, I am also foreign to that culture. I have rarely spent more than a few weeks at a time on the island of Ireland. The son of immigrants, I was born and raised in England. I think like an Englishman and have immersed myself in English history. I love this country too.



JACK O'SULLIVAN
A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

It's been an impossible problem for people like me, reconciling this sense of Irishness with Britishness. After all, you can become an Irish American, you can call yourself a black Briton. But an Irish Briton? It sounds like a joke. And a generation of violence in Northern Ireland hasn't helped. The killings led the Irish in Britain to lie low, burying our ethnicity in fear and shame. The North's conflict built on a miserable shared history that forced us into an unwelcome choice: be British or Irish. Most preferred safe. The second and subsequent generations, whose accents and manners are indistinguishable from the crowd, presented themselves simply as British.

At least until the peace settlement. For the agreement offers the Irish in Britain an opportunity, a chance to reveal other dimensions. Change has been coming for some time. The trendiness of all things Irish – thanks to themed bars, sporting success and its association with Nineties' hedonism – makes Hibernianism hip. But the peace agreement offers a more solid basis for the Irish here to emerge from their closeted silence.

The longer the agreement holds, the less we will have to slink around, bearing in British minds, responsibility for a conflict which we left behind. More important, if the traditions of Britishness and Irishness can be reconciled in Ulster, then surely we, the diaspora scattered about this country, can acknowledge what we are: both British and Irish. Like Seamus Heaney, we can face the creative challenge which "is to be in two minds".

If Northern Ireland had got to this point earlier, Diarmuid O'Neill, another British Irishman, might be alive today. O'Neill was exceptional in his extremism, but his extraordinary life points to the psychological conflicts bubbling below the surface for many Irish people in Britain. English-born of Irish parents, O'Neill had a conventional English education and an English accent. But he could not hold the two notions of identity in his head at the same time. So he cast aside his Englishness and laid claim exclusively to his Irishness. He joined the IRA. In September 1996, Diarmuid O'Neill was shot dead by police in London as he planned a bombing campaign.

O'Neill took desperate measures to demonstrate his Irishness. But it would have been difficult for him to prove it otherwise, because of the narrow-mindedness of many in the Republic. As a child on summer holidays, returning "home" to Ireland, I knew I was Irish, but those living within the Republic did not. I was taunted about my English accent, called a "sassenach", a pejorative word for English, despite an obvi-

ously Irish surname and a small army of relatives. My problem was insurmountable: I didn't live within the 26 counties, so how could I be Irish?

The peace agreement implicitly attacks this out-dated nationalism. The Dublin government has promised to surrender its old claim to the six northern counties. In exchange, it seeks reforms entitling northern Catholics to live out their Irish identity, but within the UK. Nationalism has shifted its goal: from territorial expansion to supporting a way of living.

To the Irish in Britain, this change can only be welcome. The Republic at last accepts

in the Republic itself, which increasingly defines itself not against Britishness but as European, modern and Celtic. New Irish immigrants armed with good degrees are less hung up about Britain and the old colonial relationship. They have not been soaked in the republican version history, which once dominated Irish society. But older immigrants in the puffs of Kilburn still comfort themselves with the romantic lament of an outdated Irish victim culture.

We might also see a liberating split of Catholicism from Irishness. The two seem inextricably linked. After all

After all, you can become an Irish American, you can call yourself a black Briton. But an Irish Briton? It sounds like a joke

what we always knew – that the Irish are not merely those who live within its borders. We are a vast diaspora, greater in number than those on the island of Ireland, a group whom the ideologues of ethnic purity have largely ignored.

The settlement poses challenges as well as opportunities to the exiled Irish. I appreciate that we are not homogenous, including, for example, the Protestant Irish. But I speak mainly of my tribe, the Catholic Irish. Peace between the two traditions requires us to update an Irishness narrowly expressed in terms of rebel songs. This move has long been underway

Catholicism was the way the Irish were traditionally and uncontroversially absorbed into Britain. Catholic public rituals – confession and catechism on Saturday, Mass on Sundays, a miniature wedding dress at seven for the girls' First Communion, distinguished them denominationally but not ethnically. The result was the expression, "once a Catholic, always a Catholic". We lapsed in huge numbers, but could never shift denomination since that would be a denial of Irishness.

Yet if Irishness can now find a confident face, without requiring a Catholic mask, the

Have you left anyone out of your Will?



Give your pet a home for life by leaving a legacy to The Blue Cross

Do you worry about what would happen to your pet if you were no longer there? By leaving a legacy to The Blue Cross, you can help us give your companion food, shelter, kindness and cuddles for the rest of his life.

Every year, The Blue Cross rescue thousands of homeless pets. We look after them all until loving, new homes can be found, no matter how long it takes – that's a promise.

If you would like us to care for your best friend when you're gone, return the coupon below to find out more about making a legacy to The Blue Cross.

Protect your pet's future – find out more about remembering The Blue Cross in your Will.

- ☐ Please send me a FREE advice booklet on making a Will and leaving a legacy to The Blue Cross.
- ☐ I have already made a Will and would like to find out how I can leave a legacy to The Blue Cross.

Name Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

Sent to: Charlotte Box, The Blue Cross, Freepost, Room 914, London Road, Bedford, UK MK43 0JH

Reported Legacies Number 22/97

THE BLUE CROSS

Ben Bagley

BEN BAGLEY produced his first off-Broadway revue at the age of 21, and went on to produce and conceive several other hit shows, but he will be best remembered for the series of record albums (over 50) he produced featuring obscure songs by the greatest of popular composers and lyricists.

Music historians, disc-jockeys and admirers of the best in popular song will be grateful for the treasure he uncovered and made accessible. It was on a Bagley record that we first heard the earlier versions of the Rodgers and Hart song that was to become "Blue Moon", including the version written for Jean Harlow to sing as a starstruck movie fan ("I must see Gable in person, with Garbo when they're rehearsing") and countless forgotten gems by Gertrude Kern, Porter and others. Bagley also had an acute eye for talent, giving early theatrical opportunities to Joel Grey, Woody Allen, Beatrice Arthur, Chita Rivera and Tammy Grimes.

Bagley's love of musical comedy was instilled in him as a boy by his mother, a piano teacher who would take him to see musical films and shows and purchase sheet music of the hit songs. Born in 1933, in Burlington, Vermont, he went to New York at 16 with little formal education and worked as an office boy at a publishers.

He was only 21 years old when, with the backing of Marlon and Judson Todd, millionaire owners of steamship yards, he produced his first show, *The Shouting Revue* (1955), featuring Bea Arthur and Chita Rivera and with Charles Strouse and Sheldon Harnick among its contributors. He received rave reviews and the following year Bagley produced *The Lush Revue*, for which he commissioned Vernon Duke and Ogden Nash to write songs and in which Charlotte Rae introduced Harnick's "The Shape of Things", which has become a staple of cabaret comedienne. His next revue, *Showering '57*, received a boost when Bing Crosby, dating one of the girls in the show, allowed himself to be quoted calling it "the best and most tuneful show in town".

After a severe bout with tuberculosis, Bagley produced for summer stock and nightclubs, selecting performers and finding material for them to perform. For his night-club show *Seven Come Eleven* (1962) he hired Woody Allen, then a staff writer at NBC-TV, one of whose sketches had Albert Schweitzer confessing that what he really wanted to be was a ventriloquist. Bagley's last stage production, the hit 1965 revue *The Decline and Fall of the Entire World As Seen Through the Eyes of Cole Porter*, started the trend of anthologising a composer's work in theatrical format.

Bagley: eye for talent
Photograph: Photofest

In 1961 Bagley produced the record album *Rogers and Hart Revisited* and I recall the immense pleasure it gave at a time when rock music was dominating the music world, resurrecting 15 musical gems exquisitely arranged (by Norman Paris) and performed. It was the start of a series over the next 30 years that would reveal hundreds of forgotten songs and for which Bagley recruited a startling array of talent who were paid little or no money. (Apparently only two people - June Allyson and Mabel Mercer - ever refused to sing on his records.)

Barbara Cook, Elaine Stritch, Bobby Short, Tony Perkins and Ann Miller were among his singers, while Gloria Swanson gave a plaintive rendition of Kern and Hammerstein's "We Were So Young" on *Oscar Hammerstein Revisited*, and in perhaps Bagley's greatest casting coup, Katherine Hepburn lent her talents to two of his albums, Bagley assigning her such shrewdly chosen material as Cole Porter's "A Woman's Career" and Sheldon Harnick's wryly pessimistic "Merry Minuet" which concludes that what harm nature doesn't do to civilisation will be done by man himself. ("You undoubtedly think of me as a mean old bitch," Hepburn told Bagley, "and give me angry hate songs.") Hepburn gave her services free and the two albums on which she appeared sold five times as many copies as the others.

I first met Bagley in the early Seventies when he played me selected items from his enormous record collection at his home in Queens, but he was not the easiest man to know. While his charm and enthusiasm could be infectious, he was also waspish and arrogant. Over the years he became less inclined to let the material on his albums speak for itself, imposing his own production ideas, reinterpreting numbers and even rewriting lyrics.

When I was dining once with Bagley and his arranger Dennis Deal (Paris having died), I asked Deal why, on Cole Porter's "A Lady Needs a Rest" he had omitted the line in the fourth chorus, "A lady needs a two-bar rest". When Deal said he did not rest of the line and would love to have incorporated such a musical joke, Bagley angrily asserted, "I cut and rearranged the lyrics and improved on Porter's original."

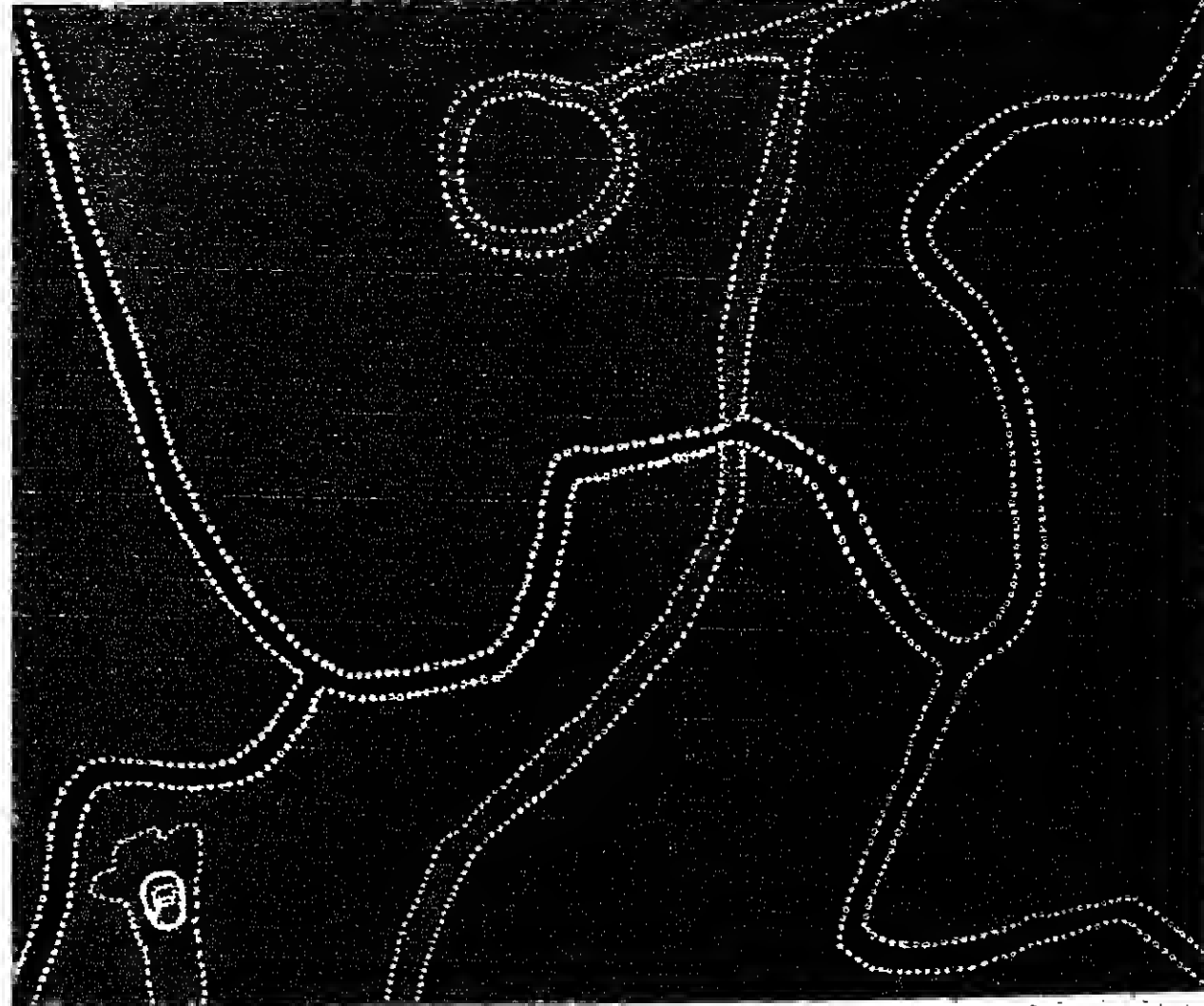
At such moments one had to remind oneself of the great contribution Bagley had made to music and theatre, and the quality of his best work. (After hearing *Harold Arlen Revisited*, the lyricist Johnny Mercer rang Bagley in the middle of the night to say that Estelle Parsons's rendition of "This Time the Dream's on Me" was the best he had ever heard.) Bagley's rewriting of lyrics led to threatened litigation when Dianna Ross sang DeSylva, Brown and Henderson's "I Want To Be Bad" in her night-club act. Bagley accused her of using his lyrics without licence and Ross replied, understandably, that she had assumed the lyrics used on the album devoted to the composers had been theirs.

Ben Bagley's final project was a second volume of DeSylva, Brown and Henderson (1996), most of his energy during his final years being devoted to having his records transferred to CD, where they remain a sometimes exasperated but mainly treasurable source of musical discovery.

Torn Vallance

Ben Bagley, theatre and record producer: born Burlington, Vermont 18 October 1933; died New York 21 March 1998.

"Good day How you mch?"
"Good!"
They bin cover over them that meat.
When talking that Kartya.
Got a blanket.
"You right. Have a feed."
He bin talk.
"You pretty hungry, eh?"
[The old owner] bin say,
"Oh, yeah."
"What you want. What you want.
tea and sugar?
Don't move away
I'll go and get 'im
Not far
I'll be back
Don't move away
Want flour and tea, sugar too
What about tobacco?"
"Yeah, we want tobacco, boss!"
Next minute,
They bin see him coming back
Along two forty-fours.
Look.
Well they couldn't run away.
One bin this side - lower side.
One bin higher up side -
[the manager and the owner].
One bin trying to get over the
back, you know.
Cmmmmmk.
Another bin trying to get away.
Cmmmmmk.
Fresh'm up.
And this fella, now -
one 'im cut'm that beef,
leg beef. You know.
That's the block now.
Bang'm in.
"All right. Pull'm that another two
fella that way."
"And cut."
"Cut 'im throat."
"This fella now."
"Where that blade bin cutten that
beef?"
They bin just chuck'm on ground
now.
That hollow log
- that head part now.
That's true word. And that right.
They bin look around,
look around
next morning.
Could'n find them.
When that everything bin dry
"Waak, waak, waak," grow sitting
longer tree.
Look down.
And this mob bin keep watching
'im. You know.
"Waak, waak, waak, waak, waak."
They bin keep watching 'im, you
know.
Anyhow, they bin come back and
have a look.
"Oh, that's the one now."
They bin do damage la
- that old man now
- that young fella
- cut his throat
- threw 'im from ground.
"Oh Goodness!"
Well, next morning
They bin tell'm him
"We not working for you
no more.
We going to another place.
You too much killer."
See they bin go away now.
They bin go to Roma Valley.
Start Creek.
Go back Wongal, Wongal Station.
Woman and all bin go.
Everybody.
From "Ruby Plains Killings", Rover
Thomas's account of a massacre of a
group of aboriginal cattle-killers by
the owner and manager of a stock
camp (from *Rede Goss*, National
Gallery of Australia, 1994)



Ruby Plains Killings 2, natural pigments on canvas, 1990: one of a series by Thomas, 'The Killing Times'

Rover Thomas

ROVER THOMAS was one of the first-generation masters of the Aboriginal Art movement. The strength and almost abstract simplicity of his paintings won him an international reputation. In 1990 he was chosen to represent Australia at the Venice Biennale.



Thomas directness

Although in his art and in his life he became indelibly associated with the East Kimberley region of north Western Australia, he was born further south - in 1926 - at Gunawaggi, near Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route, on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert. At the age of 10, however, he, with his parents, moved up the stock route to the Billiluna Station in the Kimberley region, and he began work, like so many other aboriginals, as a stockman.

During his early teens he was initiated into the traditional law of his tribe, the Wangkajungas. Over the next 30 years he worked at cattle stations throughout the area - at Texas Downs, Lissadell and Mabel Downs. His horsemanship and his taste in wide-brimmed headgear earned him the nickname "Cowboy".

While at Texas Downs he was once thrown from a bucking horse and kicked badly across the head. His scalp al-

most came completely off. It was, however, cleaned up and stitched back on by the station cook, Queenie Mackenzie (now another leading light of the East Kimberley Aboriginal Art movement). He was always proud of the scar.

All this time aboriginal stockworkers were not paid, except in shelter, provisions and tobacco. But following the mid-1970s Australian government ruling that all aboriginal pastoral workers had to receive the same wages as their non-aboriginal co-workers, the system broke down. The station owners claimed they could not support such a measure, and almost all aboriginal people were obliged to leave the stations and

their work. Thomas, together with many of the people from Texas Downs, moved to Warman, an aboriginal community at Turkey Creek.

Here a turning-point in his life occurred. He received several visits from the spirit of a relative who had recently died following a truck accident. She recounted the story of her death in terms of the mythological landscape of the area and revealed to Thomas a new ceremony cycle - the *Kill Kill*.

Thomas communicated this ceremony to the rest of the Warman community and it has become one of the key elements of their cultural identity. It was in devising special painted boards for the dance rituals that Rover Thomas began to paint. Drawing on the traditions of East Kimberley rock art and ceremonial body-painting, Thomas produced work of extraordinary directness and originality. He worked on board with the natural ochres which abound in the Kimberley region, grinding and mixing them himself. And he combined the aerial map-maker's perspective common to much aboriginal desert art with elements of side-on silhouette.

His painting soon extended beyond purely ceremonial boundaries. He recorded the local

landscape, its mythological "Dreamtime" significance, and its recent (often racially troubled) history. His example inspired others in the community to experiment in the same direction.

With the success of the Aboriginal Art movement in the Western Desert there was growing interest in - and a growing market for - new schools of work. Thomas's paintings - and those of his fellow Warman artists - were soon acclaimed by critics and collectors. The East Kimberley art movement is still amongst the most vital and original in Australia.

Although Rover Thomas continued to work quietly at Warman, sitting under the old Post Office building, painting alongside Queenie Mackenzie, Jack Brittain and others, his fame spread rapidly. He exhibited not only throughout Australia but also in the United States, Canada, Japan, France, Italy, Germany and Britain. In 1994 he became one of the first aboriginal artists to be given a solo exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia.

Rebecca Hossack

Rover Thomas, artist: born Gunawaggi, Western Australia 1926; twice married; died Gunawaggi 11 April 1998.

Maurice Stans

MAURICE STANS was a brilliant accountant, a hugely successful political fund-raiser, and a competent cabinet officer under two Republican Presidents. But his place in America's national consciousness is captured by the single line that adorns one wall of what is modestly titled the Stans Historical Center in Shakopee, Minnesota. "I became - next to Richard Nixon - the most investigated man in Washington."

In the gallery of villains that is the Watergate scandal, Stans was one of the smaller sinners. Yet in an affair whose early trail was money, he was from the outset one of the most obvious suspects - finance chairman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President - "Creep". Stans had served as a key

fund-raiser for Nixon's first winning White House campaign of 1968. His reward was the job of Commerce Secretary, which he held between 1969 and 1972. But when re-election time rolled around, he was once again summoned to the fund-raising colours.

By any conventional yardstick, he performed magnificently, raising \$60m at that time a record for any campaign in American political history. His secret was simple: "Nobody ever got offended by being asked for too much. It flatters them." Creep however was anything but a conventional financing operation. In its recesses lurked slush funds and criminal activities - the whole gamut of dirty tricks that would be known as Watergate.

In 1973 Stans, along with Nixon's former Attorney General John Mitchell, was indicted on charges of perjury and conspiracy, revolving around a \$200,000 contribution from the financier Robert Vesco. He was acquitted, but would later plead guilty to five "non-willful" breaches of campaign finance law, and was fined \$5,000.

He insisted - and it would later become clear - that he was never involved with the darker machinations of the Nixon White House. "My job," he said, "was getting the money." The rest was for other people, and he took care to know as little as possible.

For the remaining quarter-century of his life, Stans was identified with Watergate. No matter that he had been the last

Budget Director of Dwight Eisenhower, who in 1960 achieved what is believed to be the last balanced budget in US history.

Regaining his good name became his driving obsession. Part of his troubles he ascribed to an "overdose of loyalty" to Richard Nixon. The bulk of them though stemmed from the public's inability to distinguish between the real and imagined rogues of Watergate.

Stans published two autobiographies, *The Terrors of Justice* in 1978, chronicling his extraordinary ascent from \$30-a-week clerk to managing partner of a Chicago accounting firm to financial right-hand man of the 37th President, and towards the end of his life, *One of the President's Men*. Both were es-



Stans: 'getting the money'

Rupert Cornwell

Maurice Hubert Stans, accountant, business consultant and politician: born Shakopee, Minnesota 22 March 1908; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Pasadena, California 14 April 1998.

Francis Durbridge

YOUR Francis Durbridge obituary [by Jack Adrian, 13 April] reminded me vividly of the time when, as an actor in the BBC Radio Drama Repertory Com-

pany during the Fifties, I took part in a number of Paul Temple serials, writes Jeffrey Segal. They were produced by one of the radio drama greats, Mar-

ryn C. Webster, a man of tremendous warmth and a wonderful sense of humour. This manifested itself in the practice he instituted whenever we did

a Paul Temple of not letting anyone see the final script until we were actually in the studio to record it. The result of this was that every member of the cast,

from the First Waiter to the Third Taxi Driver, acted their socks off whenever they appeared in the story, alive to the possibility that they might be re-

vealed as the baddie in the final episode. On the last day of recording we held a sweepstake, half a crown a time, to be won by

whichever actor or member of the technical team drew the villain's name out of the hat. I think once I even won it - though I was never the villain.

Birthdays

Queen Margrethe of Denmark 58; Lord Abernethy, former president John Brown & Co. 85; Vice-Chief, Sir Peter Austin, 77; Sir John Henry Bacon, Director-General, Health and Safety Executive, 53; Miss Joan Bakewell, broadcaster, 65; Lord Cimos, a Lord-in-Waiting, 58; Mr Mercer Cunningham, choreographer, 79; Miss Valerie Davey MP, 58; Miss Lynne Franks, public relations consultant, 50; Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman, ICI, 74; Mr Vince Hill, singer, 66; Mr Michael Hirst, former Chief Constable, Leicestershire, 80; Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith MP, 74; Miss Ruth Madoc, actress, 55; Mr Peter Marshall, chairman, Ocean Group, 71; Mr Spike Milligan, comedian and writer, 80; Mr Jimmy Os-

mond, singer, 35; Sir Geoffrey Owen, former Editor, *Financial Times*, 64; Mr Frank Page, journalist and broadcaster, 68; Mr Gerry Rafferty, singer and songwriter, 51; Mr James Rant, Judge Advocate General of the Army and RAF, 62; Sir John Robson, former ambassador to Norway, 68; Miss Constance Shacklock, opera singer, 85; Mr Llewellyn Smith MP, 54; Miss Daisy Springfield, singer, 58; Dr William Stearn, consultant biologist, 87; Mr Leo Tindemann, statesman, 76; Professor Barbara Tizard, educationist, 72; Sir Peter Ustinov, actor and writer, 77.

Anniversaries

Birch: Sir John Davies, lawyer and poet, baptised 1569; Frans van Mieris the Elder, painter, 1635; Sir Hans

Sloane, physician and naturalist, 1669; Charles Montagu, first Earl of Halifax, politician, poet and founder of the Bank of England, 1661; John Hadley, mathematician and inventor of the first reflecting telescope, 1682; Joseph Black, chemist, 1728; Marie-Anne Eliza, vicar, 1738; Sir John Franklin, Arctic explorer, 1796; William Chambers, writer and publisher, 1800; Ford Madox Brown, painter, 1821; Anatole France (Jacques-Anatole François Thibault), novelist, 1844; Wilbur Wright, aviation pioneer, 1867; John Millington Synge, poet and playwright, 1871; Edward Frederick Wood, first Earl of Halifax (a new earldom), statesman, 1881; Ronald Barnes Gorell, third Baron Gorell, writer, 1884; Nadia-Juliette Boulanger, composer and teacher,

1887; Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin, comedian, 1889; Henry (Enrico) Mancini, composer, 1924; Deaths: Marcus Salvius Otho, Roman emperor, committed suicide 69; Aphra Behn, playwright and novelist, 1689; Laurence, fourth Earl Ferrers, executed for the murder of his steward, the last peer to be executed as a felon, 1769; Georges-Louis Leclerc, comte de Buffon, naturalist, 1788; Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes, painter, 1828; Marie (Gresholtz) Tussaud, waxworks show proprietor, 1850; Bernadette Soubirous, St Bernadette of Lourdes, 1879; John Barnett (Beer), composer, 1890; Samuel Smiles, writer and social reformer, 1904; Bertram Wagstaff Mills, circus proprietor, 1938; Albert Alick (Al) Bowly, singer, 1984; Josiah Charles Stamp, first Baron Stamp, statistician

and administrator, 1941; Fay Bainter, actress, 1968; Edna Ferber, writer, 1968. On this day: Martin Luther arrived at the Diet of Worms, 1521; Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender, was decisively defeated at Culloden by Cumberland, 1746; the Declaration of Paris was signed, abolishing privateering, 1856; Karolozky attempted to assassinate Tsar Alexander II of Russia, 1866; the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London, first building, opened, 1870; Paul Kruger became president of the South African Republic, 1883; the English Channel was flown by a woman, Harriet Quimby, 1912; the Little Theatre, Adelphi, Strand, closed, 1941; the island of Malta was awarded the George Cross by King George VI, 1942; a fire in the US ship *Grandcamp*, lying in Galveston Bay,

Texas City, Texas, set off toxic fumes and explosions, killing 512 and causing injury to thousands, 1947; the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (EEC) was set up, 1948; the submarine *Affray* sank in the English Channel, with the loss of 75 lives, 1951. Today is the Feast Day of St Bernadette, St Contardo, St Drogus or Drogo, St Eneasis, St Francis Bragg, St Joseph Benedict Labre, St Magnus of Orkney, St Optatus and the Martyrs of Saragossa, St Paternus or Pair of Avranches and St Tiburtius of Astorga.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Roads and Ways (III); Poussin, *Landscape with a Man Killed by a Snake*", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Kate McCusker, "Furniture Design in the 1930s", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Oliver Collins, "Soft Realities: Stamp Imaginings: defining forms in painting", 1pm. British Museum: Della Pamberton, "Buddhas of the Past, Present and Future", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Peter Hughes, "The third Marquess of Hertford as Furniture Collector", 1pm. Royal Society, London SW1 (Bakerian Lecture): Professor Richard Ellis, "The Morphological Evolution of the Galaxies", 5.30pm. Graham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Lynette Hunter, "Electronic Etiquette in the Global Community", 5.30pm.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Deaths, Weddings, Anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 4, Cannon Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned on 071-293 2002 or faxed on 071-293 2016, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER GAZETTE notices must be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Duke of Kent, Colonel, 50th Anniversary, a reception to mark an anniversary between the Duke and Duchess of Kent, 19th April, 1998.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, mounted on the Queen's Life Guard, will be seen in the Changing of the Guard ceremony at 11.00am, 16 April 1998.

John Tate, boxer: born Marion, Arkansas 29 January 1935; World Boxing Association heavyweight champion 1979-80; married, 1980; Claudia Bradley (marriage dissolved); died Knoxville, Tennessee 5 April 1998.

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER
NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Lloyds forced to increase provisions for pensions mis-selling

By Lisa Paterson

LLOYDS TSB, Britain's biggest bank, admitted yesterday that it has been forced to put more money aside to cover costs of resolving the pensions mis-selling scandal on top of the £300m it had already committed to compensate victims.

The bank is thought to be the first big pension provider to act following the launch last month of the second phase of the pensions mis-selling review. The

Financial Services Authority, the industry watchdog, predicts that the pensions mis-selling scandal will cost the financial industry a total of £1bn.

In an upbeat speech at the annual general meeting of the bank's shareholders in Glasgow, Sir Brian Pimman, Lloyds' chairman, said: "In March of this year, the Financial Services Authority produced its consultation paper setting out the requirements for the review of Phase II - that is, the non-priority pensions. It is likely the second stage of the pensions review will

require us to make further provisions in 1998".

Elsewhere in his speech, Sir Brian painted a rosy picture of his bank's prospects on the coming year. Meanwhile, Lloyds' executives back in London prepared for a crucial meeting today which could ease the passage of the Lloyds TSB Bill through Parliament. The Bill must be approved before Lloyds and TSB can fully integrate their businesses, but has been opposed by a handful of MPs concerned about the potential impact of the

merger on the TSB pension fund surplus.

Profits in the first quarter of 1998 were ahead of the same period the previous year and business volumes had increased. He said: "Although in 1998 we expect a slow-down in both the world and UK economies, we remain confident of our ability to continue to produce superior returns." He added that he expected the bank to make "further significant progress" during 1998 in achieving cost reductions.

Lloyds' exposure to Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand

was less than 0.4 per cent of assets. The debt was performing, he added, and "no need for provision is expected to arise".

Later today in London, top executives from Lloyds will meet members of the TSB Hill Samuel Action Group. The lobby group is concerned the bank's merger with TSB could jeopardise the TSB pension fund surplus, and their concerns led three MPs to issue blocking motions on the Bill in February. At least one of the MPs has said he will withdraw his objections if Lloyds can adequately

address the lobby group's concerns. Unless the blocking motions are withdrawn, the Bill will be debated in the House of Commons next Monday.

Lloyds has denied the merger will affect the pension fund surplus in any way. However, the TSB Hill Samuel Action Group, which does not oppose the rationale behind the merger, has said it aims to "correct unfair and inequitable treatment that we suspect has taken place in the past in respect of a significant number of pensioners".

March minutes reveal George used casting vote

MPC split again over base rates

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

EDDIE GEORGE, the Governor of the Bank of England, had to use his casting vote for the second month running to keep interest rates unchanged in March, according to minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting published yesterday.

The four-four vote on the MPC, widely assumed to have been repeated earlier this month, means the "hawks versus doves" split under the new arrangements introduced by Gordon Brown nearly a year ago has become as compelling a spectator sport as the earlier "Ken and Eddie show".

The hawks, voting for an increase in borrowing costs in March and April, were the four economics professors: Alan Budd, Willem Buiter, Charles Goodhart and Mervyn King. The doves were the Bank of England's David Clementi and Ian Pleas-deith and DeAnne Julius, who joined the MPC from industry, as well as Mr George.

Interest rates have remained flat at 7.25 per cent since November, having risen five times since the general election. The weight of City opinion is that they will go no higher, although there is a substantial minority of inflation pessimists who disagree.

The members of the MPC agreed that the gap between the differing points of view had probably narrowed slightly since the February meeting, according to the minutes. They also agreed that "the development of the labour market data over the next few months would be especially important to assessing the position of the economy and the inflation outlook".

The Committee discussed signs that the expected introduction of a national minimum wage was prompting pay rises earlier than expected. This, along with reports of skill shortages, made news on jobs and

pay particularly important.

However, on almost every other point, the minutes paint a picture of a wide difference in views. The minutes even raised the possibility that the two camps might produce separate inflation forecasts for the Bank's quarterly "Inflation Report".

One of their key disagreements about where the economy is heading concerned where it was starting from.

"Recent developments in activity were unclear," the minutes said. "Little had happened to help clarify the outlook for demand and employment." On the one hand, broad money growth had slowed since February. On the other hand, "recent data did not offer much support for an immediate slowdown in consumption".

The hawks argued that an early rate rise would guard against the need for a bigger increase later on. However, the doves responded that it was better to wait than to announce an increase that might need to be reversed early.

John O'Sullivan of Greenwich NatWest said the tone of the March minutes was less heated than the previous month's. "There is a sense that they were marking time until the May meeting," he said. Next month the MPC meets just ahead of the publication of the Bank's "Inflation Report", and after the release of preliminary figures for the economy's growth in the first quarter.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney, predicted that some of the hawks would move into the dovish camp in time for next month's meeting on 6 May. He said wage deals had remained stable and forthcoming business surveys were likely to show growth slowing further.

Minutes of April's MPC meeting will be released a week after next month's decision is announced. The delay between each meeting and publication of its minutes is five to six weeks, although some Bank officials now think there is a case for shortening this.



James Wolfensohn: Dismissed reports of a new body to monitor World Bank and IMF co-operation Photograph: AP

Japan tops agenda at G7

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

A DISCUSSION of Japan's economic and financial problems dominated the meeting in Washington yesterday of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven biggest industrial nations (G7).

Hikaru Matsunaga, the Japanese finance minister, spent just nine hours in the US capital, spelling out details of his government's proposals to boost growth.

But both Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, and Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister, said Japan must also reform its weak banks. Mr Waigel said: "Japan must make further efforts to consolidate its financial system."

Mr Rubin said he shared Japan's concerns about the weak yen and pledged US co-operation "as necessary" in the foreign exchange markets. The fear that yesterday's meeting might end in agreement to inter-

vene to support the yen kept the currency markets unsettled yesterday.

The dollar weakened slightly during the day, as did the pound. Sterling's index against other currencies fell by 0.2 to 107.1, and it lost more than a penny to reach just over DM3.02.

The Bank of Japan intervened by itself at the end of last week, spending an estimated \$10bn (£6bn) buying yen. Traders would be more concerned about co-ordinated intervention by several G7 countries, which would be more likely to stabilise or turn around the exchange rate. Although a weak yen provides a helpful boost to the Japanese exports, the G7 members will be concerned if it increases Japan's trade surplus to an excessive degree.

The G7 meeting also discussed potential instability arising from introduction of the single European currency and the need for an overhaul of the international financial system in the wake of the Asian crisis.

Controversy about how the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank handled the Asian crisis has led to a series of proposals for improvements, tabled for discussion at this week's half-year Food and Bank meetings as well as by the G7.

One possibility, put forward yesterday by Britain and Canada, would involve extra powers for the IMF and World Bank to supervise national financial regulators. Weak banking systems are thought to have played a big part in Asia's problems.

The president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, yesterday dismissed reports that a new body might be set up to monitor interaction between the World Bank and the IMF and defended the co-operation of the two organisations over Asian crisis. He said he knew nothing about a proposal, apparently backed by Britain, to create a joint surveillance unit bringing together staff from the IMF and World Bank to monitor standards and prevent duplication of effort.

Europe bank mergers 'certain'

By Lisa Paterson

EUROPEAN banking chiefs yesterday said banking mergers in Europe are inevitable following the mega-deals in the US.

Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, said that although his bank's strategy remained unaffected, other banks could be spurred into action.

The Barclays chief warned that if European banks failed to "get their acts together in the next five years, the commercial banking industry in Europe could go the way of the European investment banking industry".

In an interview yesterday, Mr Taylor said the pace of consolidation in the US "raised his eyebrows". He called the US\$165bn (£100bn) marriage between Citicorp and Travelers - announced 10 days ago - "extraordinarily ambitious". He added that only time would tell whether the two financial services giants had been reckless in their decision to join forces.

The two US financial giants have said they intend to create a "financial services supermarket" which provides a complete range of financial services - commercial banking, investment banking, insurance and fund management.

The Barclays chief said he was "dead certain" Travelers would benefit from exploiting Citicorp's extensive European distribution channel. However he said he was "suspicious" of the size of gains to be had from "cross-selling" - selling different sorts of product to the same customer.

Mr Taylor has made no secret of his desire to link up with a suitable merger partner and is understood to have approached both NatWest, Barclays' High Street rival, and Standard Chartered, the UK-based international banking group. But both NatWest and Standard Chartered turned down Mr Taylor's advances.

Yesterday, the Barclays chief said his view of the appropriate strategy for his bank had not changed in the light of recent news. The bank had "already factored in" the likelihood that banking mega-mergers would happen, he said.

Mr Taylor added that people running "a decent sized business should not feel under pressure from investors to merge". He said the pressure to merge should instead come from the competitive environment within which a business operates.

Mr Taylor's view that European banking consolidation was inevitable was shared by Mathis Cahillavetta, chairman designate of the new UBS, the giant formed by the merger of Swiss banks UBS and SBC.

In an interview published in today's *Die Zeit*, Mr Cahillavetta says: "There are too many banks around. I believe many of my colleagues world-wide are thinking about this situation."

He adds that UBS and SBC could have probably gone it alone for another five years "but the next 10 years would have been a bit more problematic".

Separately, Marcel Ospel, chief executive designate of the new UBS, told an annual meeting of shareholders that first quarter results at the two banks were better than expected. In its annual report, SBC said: "Starting in 1999 the benefits of the merger should start to improve the bottom line."

Finance bribery scandal adds to Korea's troubles

By Stephen Yoon
Hong Kong

THE ASIAN financial crisis is still taking its remorseless toll on Korea's business community, with merchant bankers suspected of bribery having their passports taken away and Kia Motors, the car giant, falling into receivership.

The Korean press reported yesterday that representatives of up to five merchant banks are having their bank accounts checked for bribery. According to one account they have had their passports with-

drawn pending the outcome of the investigation. The banks are held responsible for triggering the crisis by accumulating excessive foreign debt and lending recklessly.

The probe into the high levels of corruption which played an important role in exacerbating Korea's financial crisis is finally reaching those at the heart of corporate Korea. Controversy surrounds the granting of coveted licences to operate banks. It was alleged that merchant bankers in regions closely associated with former President Kim Young-sam bribed politicians to obtain licences.

The news came as Kia Motors and its sister company Asia Motors were officially put into receivership, signalling the humiliating demise of one of the country's big three automotive companies.

In a related development Korean newspapers reported yesterday that Kim Sun-hong, Kia's former chairman, would be among a group of businessmen, merchant bankers and government officials to be summoned by state prosecutors looking into corruption and bribery allegations.

Mr Kim is alleged to have bribed officials and politicians in a bid to

stave off the collapse of Kia, which in effect went under last July.

The collapse of the Kia group, which was Korea's eighth largest conglomerate before the financial crisis, may throw the doors open to foreign ownership of a Korean car maker. Both Ford and General Motors have a stake in the Korean automotive industry but have never been close to any form of control.

When the receiver puts Kia on the market, the American companies may decide to pick up its assets at bargain prices. However, it is equally likely that one of Kia's local rivals may wish to seize the op-

portunity to squeeze some of the industry's enormous over-capacity out of the market.

This fear is uppermost in the minds of the Kia union, which called its 14,000 members out on a limited strike yesterday but said it would only call an all-out strike if the company was taken over by a third party rather than restructured as an independent entity.

Kia's managers share the union's fears. All 1,000 managers resigned "to show their strong will", a company spokesman said. The managers want Park Je-Hyuk, the Kia Motors president, to be named a co-receiver

to prevent the sale of the company to an outside party.

While the new administration of President Kim Dae-jung is working to apportion blame for the crisis and workers are becoming increasingly militant in response to the price they are having to pay, the International Monetary Fund returned to Seoul yesterday to start its second quarterly review of Korea's progress on implementing reforms.

It is expected that this will be followed by the release of the next tranche of \$1.8bn in loans, out of the record \$38.35bn IMF bail-out.

Yesterday in the markets

STOCK MARKETS

Indices	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6074.10	-30.00	-0.49	6150.50	4251.70	3.31
FTSE 250	3546.00	-11.50	-0.33	3552.80	2384.20	2.98
FTSE 350	2409.70	-11.50	-0.48	2438.70	2057.40	3.24
FTSE All Share	2824.64	-10.34	-0.36	2861.12	2084.16	3.22
FTSE Small Cap	2636.20	0.20	0.01	2641.40	2182.10	2.88
FTSE Healthcare	1419.00	-1.90	-0.14	1415.30	1225.20	3.22
FTSE AIM	1066.10	2.80	0.26	1095.70	965.90	1.07
Dow Jones	9141.59	22.42	0.25	9121.41	8451.50	1.57
Nikkei	7829.26	27.98	0.36	7891.79	7448.71	1.57
Hong Kong	11371.06	-49.28	-0.43	11880.31	7269.13	4.48
Dax	5388.47	13.99	0.26	5411.07	3323.27	1.51

INTEREST RATES

Short sterling	UK 10 year gilt	US long bond
3m	10 year	10 year
0.75	7.54	5.89
0.76	7.55	5.90
0.77	7.56	5.91
0.78	7.57	5.92
0.79	7.58	5.93
0.80	7.59	5.94
0.81	7.60	5.95
0.82	7.61	5.96
0.83	7.62	5.97
0.84	7.63	5.98
0.85	7.64	5.99
0.86	7.65	6.00
0.87	7.66	6.01
0.88	7.67	6.02
0.89	7.68	6.03
0.90	7.69	6.04
0.91	7.70	6.05
0.92	7.71	6.06
0.93	7.72	6.07
0.94	7.73	6.08
0.95	7.74	6.09
0.96	7.75	6.10
0.97	7.76	6.11
0.98	7.77	6.12
0.99	7.78	6.13
1.00	7.79	6.14

CURRENCIES

\$/£	DM/£	¥/£
1.6325	1.9360	163.25
1.6326	1.9361	163.26
1.6327	1.9362	163.27
1.6328	1.9363	163.28
1.6329	1.9364	163.29
1.6330	1.9365	163.30
1.6331	1.9366	163.31
1.6332	1.9367	163.32
1.6333	1.9368	163.33
1.6334	1.9369	163.34
1.6335	1.9370	163.35
1.6336	1.9371	163.36
1.6337	1.9372	163.37
1.6338	1.9373	163.38
1.6339	1.9374	163.39
1.6340	1.9375	163.40
1.6341	1.9376	163.41
1.6342	1.9377	163.42
1.6343	1.9378	163.43
1.6344	1.9379	163.44
1.6345	1.9380	163.45

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2 5112	Malta (lira)	0.6389
Austria (schillings)	20.68	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.00
Belgium (franc)	60.71	Netherlands (guilder)	3.3116
Canada (\$)	2.9485	New Zealand (\$)	2.9431
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8578	Norway (krone)	12.29
Denmark (krone)	11.29	Portugal (escudos)	300.06
Finland (markka)	8.9990	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1316
France (francs)	9.8585	Singapore (\$)	2.5551
Germany (marks)	2.5511	Spain (pesetas)	249.37
Greece (drachma)	509.07	South Africa (rands)	6.1519
Hong Kong (\$)	12.85	Sweden (krona)	12.78
Ireland (pounds)	1.1642	Switzerland (francs)	2.4399
India (rupees)	61.46	Thailand (bahts)	50.59
Israel (shekels)	5.7130	Turkey (liras)	490.041
Italy (lira)	2924	USA (\$)	1.6438
Japan (yen)	214.88		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9387		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Careful with small caps

HAS THE time finally come to invest in smaller companies? You may not have noticed, but small cap stocks are showing signs of life. Although the on-off SmithKline Beecham-Glaxo merger, persistent speculation about the next banking deal, and the FTSE 100 index's relentless rise have grabbed the headlines, Britain's corporate tiddlers have been holding their own. Since the beginning of the year, the FTSE Small Cap index has gained roughly 15 per cent. Not as much as the FTSE 100, which has risen by a fifth, but still not bad compared to 1997 which, you may remember, was the year of the large company. While the Footsie surged ahead, gaining 25 per cent in value, mid- and small-cap stocks barely managed a 5 per cent rise.

Of course, there is no reason why large and small companies should perform the same way. The Footsie is dominated by representatives of the banking, oil and drug industries. Smaller companies are mostly from the manufacturing, construction and support services sectors of the economy. So even though the Footsie has surged ahead, helped by mergers and booming demand for financial services, that doesn't mean smaller stocks are necessarily going to catch up.

Indeed, investors who have concentrated on smaller companies in the past will have been disappointed. ABN Amro, the investment bank which produces an index tracking companies in the bottom 10 per cent of the London stock market, recently calculated that, in the past 10 years, small cap stocks have consistently trailed behind large ones.

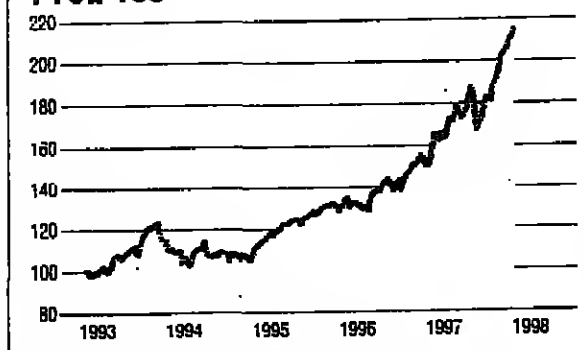
Given that Britain went through a bruising recession, that's not a huge surprise. Large companies were able to slim down by cutting out peripheral businesses and moving operations overseas. Small firms just had to grin and bear it. More recently, the strength of sterling has damaged smaller manufacturing firms, who tend to export from the UK, more than large groups, which make more of their goods overseas.

What about valuations? Anecdotal evidence - fuelled by management buyouts and an increasing number of foreign bids - suggests that the smaller end of the stock market is littered with cheap stocks. But this is not supported by overall valuations. According to FTSE International, the body which compiles market statistics, the FTSE Small Cap index currently trades on a p/e ratio of 28, compared with a multiple of 22 for the FTSE 100 index. True, these calculations are distorted by loss-making

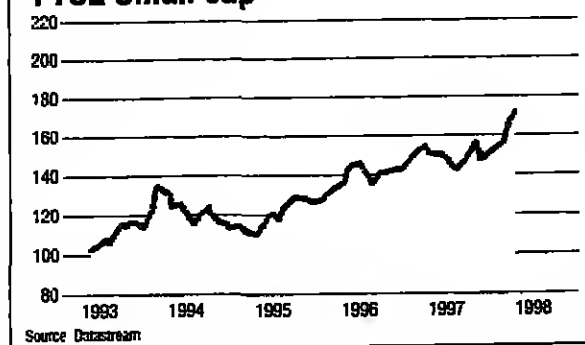
How smaller companies have performed

	Yield, %	P/E Ratio	Return in 1997, %	Return in 1998, %
FTSE 100 index	2.27	22.5	24.7	18.3
FTSE 250 index	2.49	20.5	6.6	15.8
FTSE Small cap index	2.33	28.1	6.0	14.0

FTSE 100



FTSE Small cap



Source: Datastream

companies. Strip those out and smaller companies are on a p/e ratio of 17 - a discount to large stocks. And with analysts' forecasts suggesting that both sets of companies will enjoy roughly similar earnings growth this year - the consensus is for profits to rise by about 8 per cent - surely small companies are cheap?

This argument makes sense - as far as it goes. Remember, however, that the aggregate figures mask a huge range of numbers. For every solid small company with good growth prospects, there is an overvalued speculative punt which could crash at any moment. The lesson for investors is to pick individual stocks, judging each on its own merits. But beware fund managers promising that this is the year small companies finally come good. Just because the giants are booming the tiddlers have no divine right to catch up.

Ottakar's looks good value

SHARES in Ottakar's, the book retailer, start trading today, giving smaller investors their first chance to buy into the stock. James Heanage's company has certainly timed its flotation well, given the recent corporate activity in book selling.

The last six months has seen Borders, the US book retailer, buy Books etc, Waterstone's merge with Dillons to form HMV Media and WH Smith snap up John Menzies. All this may add a bid premium to the placing price of 153p.

Ottakar's has 47 stores and concentrates principally on smaller towns so it can avoid competing with Waterstone's and take on WH Smith and smaller independents instead. This is fine for now but it is unlikely to have that market to itself for too long.

Ottakar's opened 15 outlets last year and a similar number of new openings are forecast for this year. Two larger superstores have opened in Bromley and Aberdeen and more are planned depending on the availability of sites.

This makes sense but Waterstone's and Borders/Books etc are doing the same thing and it is clear that this market is going to get a lot more competitive. Barnes & Noble, the US giant, is also poised to enter the UK market and has held talks with Ottakar's about a possible joint venture.

In its favour, Ottakar's has low staff turnover and margins that could be increased with greater buying power. The biggest downside is relatively weak consumer spending and the prospect of slugging it out with larger rivals.

The £30m float has been realistically priced, however. On last year's profits of £2.2m the 153p issue price gives a historic p/e of 16, compared to the stores sector rating of nearly 20. On current year forecasts of £3m the rating falls to 15 against the sector average of 17. Attaching a sector rating to current year earnings would mean the shares could look good value up to about 175p-180p. Beyond that there is always the possibility of a bid by a US group looking for a foothold in the UK market. Worth a look.

£2.6m shares sale for founder of Superdrug

By Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

A NON-EXECUTIVE director of Kingfisher, who co-founded the Superdrug chain in the 1960s, netted £2.6m from the sale of shares in the B&Q and Woolworths retailer yesterday. Ronald Goldstein, 62, took advantage of the recent strength in Kingfisher's share price to sell 305,000 shares at £10.99 and a further 55,000 at £10.95. However, Mr Goldstein only had a beneficial interest in 235,000 of the shares sold. The rest were held in trusts in which various members of his family and those of his brother are beneficiaries. The disposals still leave Mr Goldstein with 4.3 million shares in the company worth £47.6m. He also has a non-ben-

eficial interest in a further 3.7 million shares worth £41m.

Mr Goldstein, who has been a non-executive director of Kingfisher since 1990, owes his large stake in the group to the sale of Superdrug to Kingfisher for £231m in 1987.

Mr Goldstein founded Superdrug in 1966 together with his younger brother Peter. They took the group to the stock market in 1983 before selling to Kingfisher four years later, by which time the stores were a feature of most British high streets. The Goldsteins chose to take the proceeds in Kingfisher shares.

This proved to have been an inspired move given the strong performance in Kingfisher's shares over the last couple of years. The price stood at less than 400p at the beginning of 1995 after a profits warning.

Yesterday they stood at 1,107p up a further 8p on the day.

The company declined to disclose the reasons for Mr Goldstein's share sales.

Mr Goldstein and his brother regularly feature in the *Sunday Times* list of Britain's richest people. Last year they ranked 225th with a total wealth of £87m. According to their last entry, Ronald Goldstein, has moved into the restaurant business by backing the small Café Med group through Eclipse Investment Partners, his investment vehicle. Eclipse has invested in health clubs and nursing homes.

Mr Goldstein is the largest shareholder in the Kingfisher board. Sir Geoff Mulcahy, the chief executive who developed the group in the early 1980s, holds 168,000.

Upgrade boost for Ionica

IONICA, the beleaguered telecoms operator, yesterday moved to restore the market's confidence by revealing that it had started upgrading the software on its wireless network ahead of schedule. Ionica's shares, which had plunged from 390p to less than 60p just six months after its flotation, surged 13.5p to 81.5p.

Delays to the software, which allows Ionica to handle twice as many calls, were among the problems which undermined City confidence in the company last year and forced the departure of chief executive Nigel Playford.

C&W nets \$2bn in deal

CABLE & WIRELESS is to receive a cash injection of more than \$2bn (£1.2bn) by swapping assets with Telecom Italia, the Italian state telecom operator. The long-awaited deal, details of which were announced yesterday, involves C&W transferring its 20 per cent stake in Bouygues Telecom, the French mobile operator, to Telecom Italia while the Italian firm will shift its 29 per cent stake in Eutelsat, the Cuban telecoms group, to C&W. The two will then invest in a joint operating company to cater for global networks and services to multinational carriers.

US revamp for Laura Ashley

LAURA ASHLEY is expected to announce a radical overhaul of its American operations next week including a significant number of closures among its 32 larger format stores. These were championed by Ann Iversen, the former chief executive who left last year. The closures could result in higher than expected provisions charged against Laura Ashley's full-year results which are scheduled for next week. The company warned in January that it expected losses of £3m-£26m.



High times: The construction industry is said to be in its healthiest state for 10 years

Construction and housing markets remain buoyant

By Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

THE UK is still in the grip of a housing and construction boom, figures published yesterday showed. House prices are higher than at any time since the early 1980s according to figures from Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender. The construction industry, too, is in its healthiest state for 10 years, a survey from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors showed, with output increasing for the first three months of 1998 for the eighth successive quarter.

The latest quarterly house price index from Halifax shows that prices rose by a seasonally adjusted 0.6 per cent in March, with the average house now costing

£70,647. Annual house price inflation is now 5 per cent, compared with 5.1 per cent in February.

Prices paid by first-time buyers rose by 1.3 per cent in March, or 3.4 per cent on the equivalent figure a year ago. The average price they paid is £50,722.

The figures show prices rising fastest in Northern Ireland (4.2 per cent), and the West Midlands (3.1 per cent). Only three regions recorded falls - Wales, the North and Scotland. House price inflation is highest in the South-East (12.4 per cent), Greater London (12.4 per cent) and Northern Ireland (11 per cent). The Halifax is forecasting house price inflation at 5 per cent in the fourth quarter of the year.

In its latest quarterly market survey, the RICS said the construction boom was ex-

pected to continue into the new millennium. "We are enjoying a refreshing period of stability in the industry, which should remain for some time to come," RICS construction spokesman Richard Houghton said. "Last month's budget carried no nasty surprises for construction, leaving workload expectations among chartered surveyors virtually unchanged."

The RICS said construction activity was up by 4.7 per cent in Wales and the South-west. In Scotland activity rose by 2.2 per cent and was up by 2 per cent in Northern Ireland. The figures showed a 39 per cent annual increase in construction activity relating to the private commercial sector. Industrial property had growth of 13.1 per cent, followed by private housing, public housing and public works.

Shell 'loses out by not paying bribes'

By Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

THE CHAIRMAN of Shell's transport and trading operations claimed yesterday that the company loses valuable business because it refuses to pay bribes and said the business community should play a vigorous role in fighting corruption.

Speaking at a European Parliament Conference in Brussels on "Corruption and recent developments in legislation", Mark Moody-Stuart reassured Shell's anti-corruption stance. He also added that Shell welcomed moves within the EU to address corruption issues and recent initiatives from the OECD.

However, he said having the

right values was better than regulation.

"We do not bribe. We do not sanction any type of illegal payment of any kind anywhere, directly or indirectly... and any employee who is found to have done so will be dismissed and, if possible, prosecuted. The principle employees have to follow is simple: 'Just say no'."

Mr Moody-Stuart said Shell's stance on the issue was enshrined in its statement of general business principles. He said Shell tried to avoid the use of intermediaries in developing business opportunities. "On occasion it has been suggested to me that our cause would be much helped by a donation to a national cultural or humanitarian fund - which just happens to have a bank account in Switzerland."

Ethical objectives pay off as profits climb at Co-op Bank

By Lea Paterson

THE CO-OPERATIVE Bank's commitment to investing in ethically sound companies has paid off, with the group reporting record earnings after attracting a flood of new customers.

The bank's profits rose by more than a fifth last year to £55m, and its customer satisfaction rating - at 93 per cent - was 15 per cent higher than the industry average.

Mervyn Pedelty, the bank's chief executive, called the results "very strong". He said: "Our ethical stance, our partnership approach and commercial success have gone hand-in-hand."

Mr Pedelty added that the bank was "delighted" that the Co-operative Wholesale Society

(CWS), the bank's only shareholder, "repelled so effectively" Andrew Regan's "audacious and opportunistic assault on our principles". Mr Regan's £1.2bn attempt to break up the CWS collapsed last year. Mr Pedelty restated the bank's commitment to its ownership structure, saying he saw "no need" to break away from the CWS.

The 21 per cent jump in the bank's profits was largely attributable to an increase in customer business and came despite a rise in the company's cost base. Expenses rose by 8 per cent to £237m, after heavy investment in telephone call centres and an extensive year 2000 programme.

Mr Pedelty hinted at closer co-operation with the Co-op retail arm during 1998. He said:

"We are currently reviewing business opportunities within CWS and across the [Co-operative] movement, with a particular interest in developing financial services". Closer ties between the bank and CWS, the Co-op's insurance arm, could also be on the cards.

The Co-op also published its first "Partnership Report" yesterday, which assesses how the bank delivers values to seven different stakeholder groups. It said it was the first British bank to produce such a "warts and all" account of its business.

The report revealed the bank employed few staff from ethnic minorities and did not recycle aluminium or steel cans at any of its big sites. The bank said it was taking action to address these criticisms.

BT's ISDN can send a document in less time than it takes to walk to the fax machine.

Connect now from only £99.
Freefone 0800 800 800
or visit www.isdn.bt.com

Why not change the way we work? BT

Other units 30.00-50.00 on lines installed by 21.07.98. Example: Connection to BT's ISDN start-up package costs £29 (ex VAT). Line rental and minimum contract periods apply.

مكتبة الامير

Beckett
clears
bid for
print
company



OUTLOOK

ON HOW THE BULL MARKET MIGHT END, THE HAWKS AND DOVES DECIDING INTEREST RATES, AND THE REWARDS OF MANAGING SOMEONE ELSE'S CAPITAL

All it needs is a pin to burst the bubble

MOST people should by now be accustomed to the fact that financial journalists are not, on the whole, much good at calling the market. To be fair on ourselves, however, it is not just the financial press which has failed lamentably to predict the continued strong upswing in equity markets across the developed western world so far this year. Almost everyone has been wrong-footed. We've all struggled to come to terms with the extraordinary resilience of this bull market. On and on it goes, with little sign of a decisive break. How did we all come to get it so wrong, and is Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, right to warn, as he appeared to yesterday, that it will all end in tears?

The first question to begin with. The most obvious fault has been that of concentrating too much on valuations. On nearly all conventional measures, stock valuations on Wall Street and in Europe are now at record levels - higher than those achieved before all previous bear markets or crashes. Uncharted waters always carry with them persistent predictions of disaster.

There are, however, some good reasons for thinking that this time round it might be different, and these come to be ignored in the general beating of breasts over sky-high valuations. It would be naive and unwise to think that the business cycle has been abolished for good, but policy-makers the world over are getting better at ironing out the peaks and the troughs.

This has made business inherently less risky and as a consequence equities more valuable. Moreover, helped by advances in technology, management has improved by leaps and bounds over the last 10 to 20 years.

This in itself has made stocks more valuable, while at the same time ensuring that the corporate sector accounts for an ever larger share of the economic pie.

Add to this the growing scarcity of good value equity, which is enhanced by the present fashion for share buybacks and other forms of capital redemption, combine it with the shift throughout the west to funded pension arrangements creating yet more cash desperately seeking an investment home, and the persistence of the bull market begins to become at least explainable.

The other factor we've tended to forget in all this is that all bull markets need a good reason to end. For a while it looked as if the crisis in the Far East might provide that trigger, but we have since come to appreciate that actually its effect on the west is likely to be no more than mildly deflationary, and that bizarrely this may be just what the doctor ordered for runaway growth in the US.

So we all had it wrong, and it's so obvious with the benefit of hindsight, isn't it? Even so, none of this should blind us to the underlying reality - that there is some sort of speculative bubble building up in western stock markets. How serious it is, or what the consequences might be will have to await the moment someone dares puncture it.

We've looked at some of the reasons why stock valuations are rising, but can any of these really justify the staggering size of the real gains we have seen over the past 10 years? Just to take one, admittedly extreme, example, can the approach of the euro really vindicate a 50 per

cent-plus rise in the Italian stock market so far this year? The answer doesn't need spelling out, does it?

Diversity equals disagreement

MPC-watching is becoming the City's favourite new sport. Will Mervyn King, the lone internal Bank of England member in favour of increasing rates in February and March, have moved back into the doves' camp to join his colleagues next time round? How will the arrival of the Bank's new chief economist, John Vickers, within a month or two, change the balance?

There is no question that this is better than the old Ken and Eddie show. The MPC's members are all monetary heavyweights who will make a serious assessment of the economy and inflation prospects each month. This is a real contrast with the days when Kenneth Clarke made up his mind what to do well before Eddie George and his Bank retinue travelled across London to the Treasury every month to offer their advice. Officials from both Whitehall and Threadneedle Street admit that the Chancellor-Governor meetings became a bit of a joke. However, add the continued split on the MPC over policy loans from the outside, the new arrangements are undoubtedly an improvement on what went before.

Nonetheless, there is one obvious drawback in the new arrangements introduced by Gordon Brown nearly a year ago. The Chancellor made it plain that the MPC, and Bank of England more broadly, would have

to reflect a wider range of experience and opinions in future. The Committee would always have four outside members, nominated by the Government, although they would still be recognised experts.

While Mr Brown's choices were almost universally approved, and City fears of political appointments proved groundless, the emphasis on diversity has produced an entirely predictable result - disagreement.

Other central banks where interest rate decisions are made by a committee also suffer divisions between hawks and doves. But the Bundesbank Council is composed of bankers and the Fed's Open Markets Committee dominated by them. Consensus is easier to achieve because they all think in the same, intrinsically hawkish, way.

The split in the MPC is partly due to the divide within the British economy between simultaneous boom - in services - and bust - in manufacturing. But the longer its members agree to disagree, the more likely it is that Gordon Brown's construction of the committee has ensured it will divide frequently between hard-liner, no-compromise hawks, and wet, softie doves. Britain's interest rates will be set by majority verdict as long as the present arrangements last.

The modern way to wealth

ONCE upon a time, you had to be a successful entrepreneur with a unique selling proposition to become seriously wealthy. Nowadays, judging by the list of the world's highest earners published in the current issue

of *Business Week*, you need only to run one of America's big public companies. Sandy Weill, chief executive of Travelers Group, made \$231m last year taking into account the value of his stock options, hugely more than Anita Roddick, say, is worth after a lifetime of building up Body Shop.

Admittedly, getting to the top of one of these things is no small feat. Some of them are also seen in the US as genuine entrepreneurial achievements. Nonetheless, when the rewards of managing someone else's capital get to this sort of level, investors need seriously to question whether they are getting the balance right between their own interests and those of their directors.

Let's take the example of what is still (just about) a British company, SmithKline Beecham. The accounts reveal a package of benefits for directors that, besides a salary and pension, includes an annual bonus, which naturally can be enhanced if invested in SB shares and share options. Plainly that is not enough, for there is also a long-term incentive plan. And just to provide that extra bit of incentive to get out bed in the morning, there's a "mid-term incentive plan" too. The finance director, Hugh Collum (earnings last year £2.3m), found himself so hard up, the company had to lend him \$65,000 to pay his US tax bill, poor dear.

Even more bizarre, the small print of the accounts shows that the group's entire growth in earnings last year was achieved because of an obscure US tax break on the realisation by executives of profits on stock options (don't ask). Is this not taking the link between earnings and performance just a little bit too far?

Beckett clears bid for print company

By Peter Thai Larsen

INVESTCORP yesterday looked to have won control of Watnoughs, the printing company, after the Middle East-backed investment group's £250m bid was cleared by Trade and Industry Secretary, Margaret Beckett.

Investcorp has tabled a joint bid for Watnoughs and BPC, its privately-owned rival, on the condition that neither offer was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The 345p offer for Watnoughs trumped an earlier 257p-a-share bid from Quebecor, the Canadian printing group. Quebecor was yesterday considering its position and refused to comment. But it is thought unlikely to be prepared to top Investcorp's offer.

Nevertheless, Watnoughs shares surged 22p to 346p - a premium to Investcorp's offer, suggesting some investors expect a higher bid to emerge.

Quebecor had lobbied strongly against the merger being allowed to proceed, arguing the new company would dominate certain parts of the UK printing market. The fear of widespread job cuts had also prompted the printing unions, and a number of Members of Parliament, to oppose the deal.

But Investcorp yesterday insisted that no additional job cuts were planned. Before the bid, both BPC and Watnoughs had started redundancy programmes which will reduce their combined workforce of 6,000 by about 350.

Richard Warner, a member of Investcorp's investment committee, said that those cuts would go ahead as planned, but that apart from closing one of the two head offices, Investcorp would not be making any further cuts.



Robert Crandall: One of the most colourful and controversial executives

American Airlines chief resigns

By John Willcock

THE tangled negotiations to get the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines off the ground were thrown into doubt yesterday by the shock resignation of the head of the US company.

Robert Crandall, 62, announced yesterday that he was retiring as chairman and chief executive of AMR, which owns American Airlines, three years before the company's compulsory retirement age.

The combative Mr Crandall got on well with Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, and the duo had formed an effective team in presenting the merits of the alliance to sceptical Brussels regulators. Observers do not expect any decision from Brussels on the proposed link-up until well into next month.

Since becoming chief executive at AMR in 1985, Mr Crandall had built American Airlines from a second-tier

operator to the US's highest. Yesterday BA moved swiftly to play down the significance of Mr Crandall's departure.

Mr Ayling said: "Bob Crandall was one of the greats in the postwar airline industry. It has been a rare privilege to work with him in the last two years."

Mr Ayling added: "I'm delighted that Don Cary is to be his successor. I've known him for a number of years and I am confident that we can work together and bring off the alliance of British Airways and American Airlines."

Mr Cary, 51, is currently president of American Airlines. Mr Crandall announced his retirement on the day the company reported a 91 per cent jump in first-quarter earnings and after two of the most profitable years in the company's history. He leaves the airline with aggressive expansion plans in place, including 100 new aircraft on order and marketing partnerships worldwide.

"He certainly would be leaving on a high note,"

Lehman Brothers analyst Brian Harris said.

Mr Crandall had hinted that he might retire since he turned 60. Mr Harris said he doubted that AMR would change much under Mr Cary, who shares Mr Crandall's competitive drive, though not the aggressive style that has made him one of the country's most colourful and controversial executives.

Under Mr Crandall's leadership, American's fleet surged from 291 planes in the early 1980s to a peak of 691 in 1993.

He was instrumental in shaping the way airlines have competed since government deregulation, pioneering such things as discount fares, frequent-flyer programmes and computer reservation systems.

Mr Crandall, a chain-smoker who jogs on a treadmill 45 minutes a day, was one of the first major US airline executives who hadn't spent time in the cockpit. Instead, he rose through the financial side of the business.

Soros fund takes £8m stake in the bid battle for Argos

By Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

GEORGE SOROS, the international currency speculator, has placed an £8m bet on the outcome of Great Universal Stores £1.9bn bid for Argos.

The catalogue retailer revealed yesterday that an investment fund controlled by Mr Soros had bought nearly 1.3 million of its shares. Soros Fund Management acquired 1.266 million Argos shares at 636p on Tuesday, raising its

holding to 4 million shares. This is equivalent to 1.4 per cent of the company. Retail analysts said the purchase had probably been made to secure a profit if GUS's 650p a share cash offer were successful.

Others speculated that Mr Soros might be betting on a "white knight" entering the fray with a higher offer for Argos. However, with Littlewoods ruling itself out and a continental bidder regarded as unlikely, most observers do not expect another bidder to enter the fray.

"On the face of it, he's just in there for a turn," one analyst said. "But given the costs involved he might only make 5-10p a share. That hardly seems the thing dreams are made of."

It is certainly peripheral for the man who famously bet against the pound in 1992, helping to force Britain out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism and make his funds a fortune in the process.

The Soros fund in New York declined to comment on its motives, saying: "It is our policy not to comment on individual investments." An Ar-

gos spokesman said: "Presumably he [George Soros] sees value in Argos but it is the actions of the majority of shareholders that will determine the outcome of this bid."

Investors have until 24 April to make up their minds whether to accept GUS's offer. The market has been anticipating a victory for GUS since the home shopping group raised its offer from 570p to 650p last week.

Argos shares closed 2p lower at 635p. GUS shares ended the day 16.5p up at 817p.

It's Time for 300MHz & Windows '98

When other retailers continue to offer 233MHz or slower, lower spec models. Time cuts out the middleman to offer this 300MHz Pentium II processor based system with an amazing specification, complete with a free upgrade voucher to Windows '98 at a sensational price of just £999 + VAT!

Buy now with INTEREST FREE CREDIT and pay NOTHING until 1999, not even a deposit on the best buy 'S' models. Take a closer look and get the best value in the UK.

- 300-2 Win98PC™**
- 300MHz Intel Pentium II processor
 - 64MB RAM
 - 8.4GB Ultra DMA-33 hard disk
 - 32x MAX CD-ROM
 - 512K Pipeline burst cache
 - 30 variable speed
 - 58K Rockwell's voice modem with flash
 - 4MB ATI AGP x2 Rage Pro 3D graphics
 - SPS05 stereo speaker system
 - 50K Gold speech recognition (microphone with 3 models only)
 - Microsoft Windows 95 plus Windows 98 upgrade voucher and over 2800 of the best quality software*
 - 30 minute VHS video trainer
 - Year 2000 compliant
 - 14 Day money back guarantee (excluding postage costs)
 - 15" SVGA colour screen (15" optional extra)
 - ATX tower system with all standard features

£999 + VAT

£1173.83 inc. VAT

300MHz Pentium II

64MB RAM

8.4GB Hard Disk

ATI 4MB AGP x2 Graphics

58K Voice Modem

32x CD-ROM

IBM Gold Speech Recognition

Pay Nothing Until 1999

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Windows 98

300MHz Pentium II

64MB RAM

8.4GB Hard Disk

ATI 4MB AGP x2 Graphics

58K Voice Modem

32x CD-ROM

IBM Gold Speech Recognition

Product codes 14 510 197 311 All our Computers are 100% Millennium Safe

266M-2	333-2	333-2x	333-2x
Win98PC™	Win98PC™	Win98PC™	Win98PC™
£1069	£1256.08	£1189	£1299
£1256.08	£1397.08	£1299	£1526.33

47 UK Showrooms

Free home or office visit presentation

POWERHOUSE

Specialist in:

- Desktops
- Laptops
- Peripherals
- Software
- Networking
- Security
- Telephony
- Video
- Web
- Wireless

Win98 PC™ 'S' Models

These include 5 top games (PVP, PVP, PVP, PVP, PVP), printer, scanner, microphone and over 13 CD multimedia titles (PVP, PVP, PVP, PVP, PVP) for just £999 + VAT

Product codes: 14 510 197 311, 14 510 197 312, 14 510 197 313, 14 510 197 314, 14 510 197 315, 14 510 197 316, 14 510 197 317, 14 510 197 318, 14 510 197 319, 14 510 197 320, 14 510 197 321, 14 510 197 322, 14 510 197 323, 14 510 197 324, 14 510 197 325, 14 510 197 326, 14 510 197 327, 14 510 197 328, 14 510 197 329, 14 510 197 330, 14 510 197 331, 14 510 197 332, 14 510 197 333, 14 510 197 334, 14 510 197 335, 14 510 197 336, 14 510 197 337, 14 510 197 338, 14 510 197 339, 14 510 197 340, 14 510 197 341, 14 510 197 342, 14 510 197 343, 14 510 197 344, 14 510 197 345, 14 510 197 346, 14 510 197 347, 14 510 197 348, 14 510 197 349, 14 510 197 350, 14 510 197 351, 14 510 197 352, 14 510 197 353, 14 510 197 354, 14 510 197 355, 14 510 197 356, 14 510 197 357, 14 510 197 358, 14 510 197 359, 14 510 197 360, 14 510 197 361, 14 510 197 362, 14 510 197 363, 14 510 197 364, 14 510 197 365, 14 510 197 366, 14 510 197 367, 14 510 197 368, 14 510 197 369, 14 510 197 370, 14 510 197 371, 14 510 197 372, 14 510 197 373, 14 510 197 374, 14 510 197 375, 14 510 197 376, 14 510 197 377, 14 510 197 378, 14 510 197 379, 14 510 197 380, 14 510 197 381, 14 510 197 382, 14 510 197 383, 14 510 197 384, 14 510 197 385, 14 510 197 386, 14 510 197 387, 14 510 197 388, 14 510 197 389, 14 510 197 390, 14 510 197 391, 14 510 197 392, 14 510 197 393, 14 510 197 394, 14 510 197 395, 14 510 197 396, 14 510 197 397, 14 510 197 398, 14 510 197 399, 14 510 197 400, 14 510 197 401, 14 510 197 402, 14 510 197 403, 14 510 197 404, 14 510 197 405, 14 510 197 406, 14 510 197 407, 14 510 197 408, 14 510 197 409, 14 510 197 410, 14 510 197 411, 14 510 197 412, 14 510 197 413, 14 510 197 414, 14 510 197 415, 14 510 197 416, 14 510 197 417, 14 510 197 418, 14 510 197 419, 14 510 197 420, 14 510 197 421, 14 510 197 422, 14 510 197 423, 14 510 197 424, 14 510 197 425, 14 510 197 426, 14 510 197 427, 14 510 197 428, 14 510 197 429, 14 510 197 430, 14 510 197 431, 14 510 197 432, 14 510 197 433, 14 510 197 434, 14 510 197 435, 14 510 197 436, 14 510 197 437, 14 510 197 438, 14 510 197 439, 14 510 197 440, 14 510 197 441, 14 510 197 442, 14 510 197 443, 14 510 197 444, 14 510 197 445, 14 510 197 446, 14 510 197 447, 14 510 197 448, 14 510 197 449, 14 510 197 450, 14 510 197 451, 14 510 197 452, 14 510 197 453, 14 510 197 454, 14 510 197 455, 14 510 197 456, 14 510 197 457, 14 510 197 458, 14 510 197 459, 14 510 197 460, 14 510 197 461, 14 510 197 462, 14 510 197 463, 14 510 197 464, 14 510 197 465, 14 510 197 466, 14 510 197 467, 14 510 197 468, 14 510 197 469, 14 510 197 470, 14 510 197 471, 14 510 197 472, 14 510 197 473, 14 510 197 474, 14 510 197 475, 14 510 197 476, 14 510 197 477, 14 510 197 478, 14 510 197 479, 14 510 197 480, 14 510 197 481, 14 510 197 482, 14 510 197 483, 14 510 197 484, 14 510 197 485, 14 510 197 486, 14 510 197 487, 14 510 197 488, 14 510 197 489, 14 510 197 490, 14 510 197 491, 14 510 197 492, 14 510 197 493, 14 510 197 494, 14 510 197 495, 14 510 197 496, 14 510 197 497, 14 510 197 498, 14 510 197 499, 14 510 197 500, 14 510 197 501, 14 510 197 502, 14 510 197 503, 14 510 197 504, 14 510 197 505, 14 510 197 506, 14 510 197 507, 14 510 197 508, 14 510 197 509, 14 510 197 510, 14 510 197 511, 14 510 197 512, 14 510 197 513, 14 510 197 514, 14 510 197 515, 14 510 197 516, 14 510 197 517, 14 510 197 518, 14 510 197 519, 14 510 197 520, 14 510 197 521, 14 510 197 522, 14 510 197 523, 14 510 197 524, 14 510 197 525, 14 510 197 526, 14 510 197 527, 14 510 197 528, 14 510 197 529, 14 510 197 530, 14 510 197 531, 14 510 197 532, 14 510 197 533, 14 510 197 534, 14 510 197 535, 14 510 197 536, 14 510 197 537, 14 510 197 538, 14 510 197 539, 14 510 197 540, 14 510 197 541, 14 510 197 542, 14 510 197 543, 14 510 197 544, 14 510 197 545, 14 510 197 546, 14 510 197 547, 14 510 197 548, 14 510 197 549, 14 510 197 550, 14 510 197 551, 14 510 197 552, 14 510 197 553, 14 510 197 554, 14 510 197 555, 14 510 197 556, 14 510 197 557, 14 510 197 558, 14 510 197 559, 14 510 197 560, 14 510 197 561, 14 510 197 562, 14 510 197 563, 14 510 197 564, 14 510 197 565, 14 510 197 566, 14 510 197 567, 14 510 197 568, 14 510 197 569, 14 510 197 570, 14 510 197 571, 14 510 197 572, 14 510 197 573, 14 510 197 574, 14 510 197 575, 14 510 197 576, 14 510 197 577, 14 510 197 578, 14 510 197 579, 14 510 197 580, 14 510 197 581, 14 510 197 582, 14 510 197 583, 14 510 197 584, 14 510 197 585, 14 510 197 586, 14 510 197 587, 14 510 197 588, 14 510 197 589, 14 510 197 590, 14 510 197 591, 14 510 197 592, 14 510 197 593, 14 510 197 594, 14 510 197 595, 14 510 197 596, 14 510 197 597, 14 510 197 598, 14 510 197 599, 14 510 197 600, 14 510 197 601, 14 510 197 602, 14 510 197 603, 14 510 197 604, 14 510 197 605, 14 510 197 606, 14 510 197 607, 14 510 197 608, 14 510 197 609, 14 510 197 610, 14 510 197 611, 14 510 197 612, 14 510 197 613, 14 510 197 614, 14 510 197 615, 14 510 197 616, 14 510 197 617, 14 510 197 618, 14 510 197 619, 14 510 197 620, 14 510 197 621, 14 510 197 622, 14 510 197 623, 14 510 197 624, 14 510 197 625, 14 510 197 626, 14 510 197 627, 14 510 197 628, 14 510 197 629, 14 510 197 630, 14 510 197 631, 14 510 197 632, 14 510 197 633, 14 510 197 634, 14 510 197 635, 14 510 197 636, 14 510 197 637, 14 510 197 638, 14 510 197 639, 14 510 197 640, 14 510 197 641, 14 510 197 642, 14 510 197 643, 14 510 197 644,

Why reform of the labour markets is the key to economic growth



DIANE COYLE
ON THE
TASK FOR
GOVERNMENT

THE MINUTES of the Monetary Policy Committee's March meeting, published yesterday, showed its experts to be just as divided as those in the City's about where the economy is heading. The two camps are looking in minute detail at the same figures and surveys, yet drawing completely different conclusions, like people having an argument over which way up a modern painting should be hung.

Yet on one thing they agreed: that the labour market was the key to understanding the economy at the moment. If the number of jobs continues to expand and there is definitive evidence of earnings growth picking up, it will be the trigger for another rise in the cost of borrowing.

As well as holding the key to the path of the current business cycle, the labour market is at the heart of the Government's longer-term ambitions for the economy. To increase the trend rate at which the economy can expand over many years, it will need to boost not only investment and innovation but also the productivity of the workforce. And making sure higher long-term growth goes hand in hand with a high and stable level of unemployment and less inequality will require a supply of labour that is better as well as bigger.

Indeed, there is a sense in which getting labour supply

right is the single most pressing problem in economic policy. Any government or central bank can increase demand by cutting taxes or interest rates: booms are easy to trigger. The trick is avoiding busts, and that will only happen if the supply is there to meet the demand; so that the expansion does not trigger inflation and the inevitable need to tighten policy.

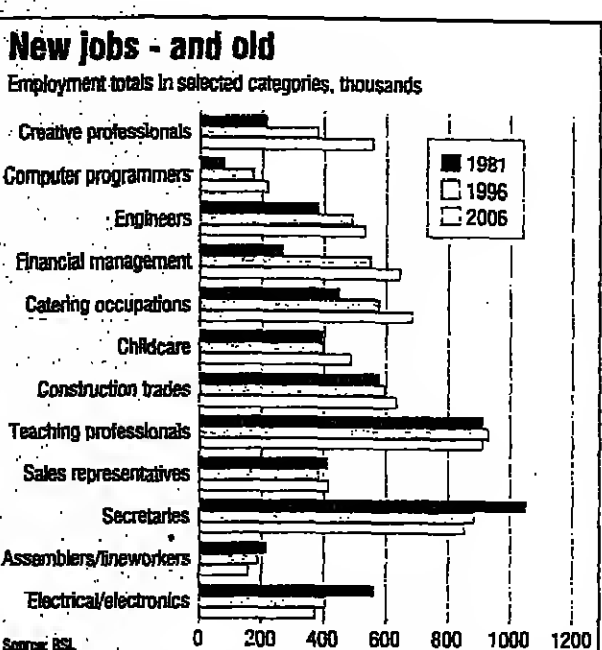
In a world where goods and capital flow fairly freely, supplies of these pose no real constraint, although they do not remove the need for a high enough rate of investment in "fixed" or physical plant and equipment. But workers do not move at all freely. A mismatch between labour demand and supply is the first barrier a growing economy will run into.

Unfortunately, it is a pretty hard problem to overcome. Mismatch has many dimensions, each of which presents a daunting agenda of structural reform. The most obvious is the problem of geography. Unemployment is extremely unevenly spread around the country and even within the same town. It is worst in the nearly 1,500 inner-city estates identified by the DETR, but also high in other urban "rustbelt" areas.

The unemployment rate (measured by the number of claimants) ranges from a virtually invisible 1.4 per cent in Bicester and 1.5 per cent in Harlepool and 12.4 per cent in South Tyneside. And in some ways in Liverpool and London the jobless rate is double that.

There is no way the Bank of England could ease interest rates enough for higher demand to soak up most of the unemployment in these hot spots. It would send the rest of the economy into a tailspin, never mind overheating it. Clearly, a lot of the explanation lies in problems specific to particular areas.

Ed Glaeser, a professor of economics at Harvard University, has explored the reasons for the existence of inner-city pockets of high unemployment in the American ghettos. He argues



that what starts out as a problem with a specific single cause — such as institutional racism in employment discriminating against blacks in the 1950s and 1960s — becomes a structural problem for the next generation.

Those who are able to escape the ghetto because they get a job that pays well enough move out. Those left behind tend to have no jobs or bad jobs, their children have few role models and develop none of the habits of work life turning up on time and co-operating with colleagues, and before long the criminal economy provides higher-risk but higher-return job opportunities. Professor Glaeser found the relative employment and income prospects within inner-city ghettos had diminished markedly over time.

To put it in economists' jargon, the human capital of the people who live in such estates deteriorates very rapidly. Banning discrimination or providing better public transport links to high employment parts of the city do not address the embedded skills shortfall.

But this kind of geographical patchiness is just one form of mismatch. Another comes about because newly created jobs are in different industries

and demand different skills and aptitudes than the jobs being destroyed. These varieties of mismatch overlap, of course. The destruction of jobs in heavy industry and mining means the North of England tends to have higher unemployment rates than the South. However, in principle, the expanding parts of the jobs market can be located anywhere but it does not mean there will be an appropriate labour supply.

A report from the consultancy Business Strategies published today makes the dramatic prediction that the "creative" industries — the music biz, the media, sport and so on — will expand so rapidly by 2006 that they will be employing almost as many people as, say, construction. But where will all the pop stars and television producers come from?

The recent annual review of employment patterns from Warwick University's Institute for Employment Research, which gives comprehensive forecasts of demand for different types of labour, makes it clear the pattern of growth is putting a premium on educational qualifications — and all the attributes that these proxy for, like general knowledge, self-

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



VETERAN motor ace Stirling Moss was on hand yesterday to help launch Hastings Direct's move into insurance over-the-phone for classic cars.

The press conference was held at the Bluebird Café on the King's Road. Sir Terence Conran's latest eating warehouse, which, appropriately enough, was originally a petrol station. An intrepid colleague of mine was the only member of the national press to turn up. Well, it was raining.

Anyway, Stirling was in fine form. He is no novice at the insurance game, having switched his allegiance to Hastings from Bain Clarkson, the West Midlands-based broker which was itself recently taken over by AON.

Stirling says he still has a substantial stable of classic motor cars, most of which he is fortunate enough to store in various museums free of charge. Apparently, curators are pleased as punch to borrow classic racers which they can label as belonging to the great motor champion.

However, Mrs Moss is adamant that her husband still has too many cars cluttering up the homestead. He has put up for sale his Shelby Mustang, "a hairy beast of unimaginable power", I am told.

Stirling is all set for the Bexhill 100, a rally near Hastings Direct's HQ due on the first May weekend. It turns out that the insurance company is the biggest local private sector employer on the sunny Sussex coast.

The former champion is also a big noise in the RAC, which means he would have trussed a healthy sum if the failed "demutualisation" coup had succeeded.

THE VENERABLE Victoria & Albert Museum in London's South Kensington is attempting to shrug off its image as a dusty collection of objet d'art and embrace a more commercial ethos. V&A Enterprises, its business wing, has recruited Mary Batten, director of wholesaling and licensing at Laura Ashley for the last six years, to be its head of brand development.

Visitors to the ornate Victorian pile will already be familiar with its large shop but the

museum has always tried to fulfil the design and commercial ambitions of its founder, Prince Albert.

Sales of V&A Enterprises have risen from £3m to £27m in the last three years, not least because of commercial partnerships with the likes of Coats Viyella and Fired Earth. Both companies went to the museum to gain inspiration for the design of new products. Coats Viyella launched a range of bed linen and lingerie via Marks & Spencer last year using V&A designs, while Fired Earth's V&A-derived "historic prints" have been a hit with the DIY set.

I wish Ms Batten well in her attempts to strengthen the V&A brand. I just hope the V&A provides a happier environment than Laura Ashley, which shed its chief executive Ann Iverson last year after a series of profits warnings.

THE INLAND Revenue's commendable efforts to be more "green" and save the planet may have an unfortunate impact on tax payers, according to accountants Grant Thornton.

Mike Warburton, senior tax partner with the firm, notes that "as of 1 April the Revenue will be conserving paper by only issuing the first sheet of the full tax return — the formal 'Notice to make a return' to tax payers."

He says: "This will only affect tax payers who submitted their 1996/97 returns by electronic lodgement or computer generated facsimile."

This contrasts with the Revenue's previous indiscriminate approach of sending out bulging forms in huge manilla envelopes to everyone, regardless of how they were likely to file their returns.

While the new approach may save a couple of rain forests, Mr Warburton warns: "The risk is that many taxpayers may not recognise the importance of the new one-page communication, and mistakenly assume that neither they nor their adviser need take any action this year."

I suggest a solution for the Revenue: print in large type on the top of each individual tax return: "We're saving the planet — but you've still got to pay through the nose."

GOVERNMENT ministers and drugs companies going belly up and outraged American critics of Lloyd's of London all have a home on the internet. Among the press releases to plunk on my desk this week was an invitation to participate in a "virtual press conference" with Tessa Jowell, public health minister, and Keith Hellawell, the UK anti-drugs co-ordinator, next Tuesday.

The duo are launching a drugs information website, "http://www.trashed.co.uk". I will participate — if I can master the instructions.

London accountants the MacDonald Partnership are also burning forth on the net with a website which explains the best ways to avoid going bust, "http://www.tmp.co.uk", plus a "jargon-free interactive software guide" on rescue procedures if your business does go phut.

Thirdly, there's a bunch of American and-Lloyd's activists who have set up their own website, "http://www.TruthAboutLloyds.com". Happy surfing.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	100.00		
Australia	2.5840	2.5850	2.5860
Canada	1.5130	1.5140	1.5150
France	16.5500	16.5510	16.5520
Germany	1.9360	1.9370	1.9380
Italy	1.9360	1.9370	1.9380
Japan	109.10	109.15	109.20
Netherlands	2.2030	2.2040	2.2050
Sweden	8.4600	8.4610	8.4620
Switzerland	1.7360	1.7370	1.7380
US	1.6535	1.6545	1.6555

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Term
UK	5.75%	Discount
France	4.50%	Discount
Germany	3.50%	Discount
Italy	6.50%	Discount
Japan	5.50%	Discount
Netherlands	3.50%	Discount
Sweden	5.50%	Discount
Switzerland	3.50%	Discount
US	5.50%	Discount

Bond Yields

Country	3m	1yr	2yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	30yr
UK	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%
France	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%
Germany	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%
Italy	6.50%	6.75%	7.00%	7.25%	7.50%	7.75%	8.00%
Japan	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	6.50%	6.75%	7.00%
Netherlands	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%
Sweden	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	6.50%	6.75%	7.00%
Switzerland	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%
US	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	6.50%	6.75%	7.00%

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Term
UK	5.75%	Discount
France	4.50%	Discount
Germany	3.50%	Discount
Italy	6.50%	Discount
Japan	5.50%	Discount
Netherlands	3.50%	Discount
Sweden	5.50%	Discount
Switzerland	3.50%	Discount
US	5.50%	Discount

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ear floor	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jul-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Aug-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Sep-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Oct-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Nov-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Dec-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jan-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Feb-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Mar-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ear floor	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jul-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Aug-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Sep-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Oct-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Nov-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Dec-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jan-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Feb-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Mar-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50

Industrial Metals

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ear floor	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jul-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Aug-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Sep-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Oct-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Nov-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Dec-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jan-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Feb-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Mar-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50

Precious Metals

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ear floor	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jul-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Aug-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Sep-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Oct-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Nov-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Dec-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jan-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Feb-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Mar-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	100.00		
Australia	2.5840	2.5850	2.5860
Canada	1.5130	1.5140	1.5150
France	16.5500	16.5510	16.5520
Germany	1.9360	1.9370	1.9380
Italy	1.9360	1.9370	1.9380
Japan	109.10	109.15	109.20
Netherlands	2.2030	2.2040	2.2050
Sweden	8.4600	8.4610	8.4620
Switzerland	1.7360	1.7370	1.7380
US	1.6535	1.6545	1.6555

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Term
UK	5.75%	Discount
France	4.50%	Discount
Germany	3.50%	Discount
Italy	6.50%	Discount
Japan	5.50%	Discount
Netherlands	3.50%	Discount
Sweden	5.50%	Discount
Switzerland	3.50%	Discount
US	5.50%	Discount

Bond Yields

Country	3m	1yr	2yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	30yr
UK	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%
France	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%
Germany	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%
Italy	6.50%	6.75%	7.00%	7.25%	7.50%	7.75%	8.00%
Japan	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	6.50%	6.75%	7.00%
Netherlands	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%
Sweden	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	6.50%	6.75%	7.00%
Switzerland	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%
US	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	6.50%	6.75%	7.00%

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Term
UK	5.75%	Discount
France	4.50%	Discount
Germany	3.50%	Discount
Italy	6.50%	Discount
Japan	5.50%	Discount
Netherlands	3.50%	Discount
Sweden	5.50%	Discount
Switzerland	3.50%	Discount
US	5.50%	Discount

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ear floor	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jul-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Aug-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Sep-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Oct-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Nov-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Dec-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jan-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Feb-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Mar-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ear floor	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jul-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Aug-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Sep-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Oct-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Nov-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Dec-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jan-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Feb-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Mar-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50

Industrial Metals

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ear floor	Open
UK Govt	Jun-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jul-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Aug-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Sep-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Oct-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Nov-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Dec-98	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Jan-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Feb-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50
UK Govt	Mar-99	103.50	103.40	103.50	103.50

Precious Metals

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ear floor
----------	------------	------	-----	-----------

'I was astonished to see Nicklaus showing such will to win'

WHEN Jack Nicklaus, 58, set off with Ernie Els, 27, in the final round of last week's Masters he suggested an attempt to play as though they were the last pairing. "Jack did, I didn't," Els said afterwards.

Youth has no dominion in golf but in finishing at five under to share sixth place, only four shots behind the new champion, Mark O'Meara, and ahead of the four young men who won last year's majors, Nicklaus added greatly to the legend of his pride and determination.

Going around Augusta National's pine-shadowed corridors with Nicklaus filled Els with wonder. "It was an unbelievable experience," the reigning US Open champion said. "I was just astonished to see a man who

has achieved so much showing such will to win. It was an example to us all."

However you look at fame, Nicklaus is famous; even people who deem an interest in games evidence of arrested development associate Nicklaus with golf in the way they associate Muhammad Ali with boxing, Pele with football and Sir Donald Bradman with cricket. The connection thrives in their subconscious and is therefore a true measure of fame.

When Nicklaus picked up three shots over the front nine last Sunday afternoon, somebody asked how old George Foreman was when he knocked out Michael Moorer in November 1994 to gain two versions

of the heavyweight championship 20 years after losing the undisputed title to Muhammad Ali.

Foreman was 43 - Nicklaus was a year older when he won a sixth Masters title in 1986 - but since golfers do not have to endure head punches (even if you sometimes get the impression of brain damage) no valid comparison could be made between two notable veterans of sport.

You hear a lot about dedication in sport, at least the necessity as preached by coaches, but for tournament golfers it is a personal matter. Nobody has exemplified this more than Nicklaus.

Nicklaus's career, more than that of any other sports performer,



KEN JONES

has borne out the words of President Calvin Coolidge. "Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb... persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Eighteen major championships and numerous second and third place finishes do not tell the entire

story of Nicklaus's career or explain the affection and respect that is held out for him.

The most important thing is that Nicklaus has never short-changed the public or himself. "I won't go on playing at this level unless I can be competitive," he said before making a 40th appearance in the Masters. Unhappy with his form in a Seniors event, Nicklaus had spent hours on the practice ground.

Coming off the 15th green in the final round last week Nicklaus still believed he could win the tournament. He was thinking about an eagle, birdie, birdie finish. "It was there in his eyes," Els recalled. "I'm sure he thought that was possible."

If Nicklaus's attitude could be

bottled, football coaches would buy it in gallons. "I've got gifted 20-year-olds who wouldn't begin to know where Nicklaus is coming from," a Premier League manager said to me this week. "They simply don't understand that there is a great deal more to playing a game well than the ability they were born with."

When Terry Lawless was our leading boxing manager with a stable of world champions, he often held Nicklaus up as an example of what it takes to reach the top in any field of sporting endeavour. "He represents everything you look for," I remember Lawless saying. "Absolute dedication, tremendous spirit, always looking for improvement." Lawless read everything he could

find about Nicklaus and doubtless still has him as a hero.

Many years ago on a football coaching course I listened to a lecture given by Gustav Sebes, who put together the outstanding Hungarian team of the Fifties. Speaking of its captain Ferenc Puskas, one of the greatest players in history, he said: "At 15 years old some in his position were more talented but none matched his effort on the field or his consistency. He had more pride than the others."

Pride has been a cornerstone of Nicklaus's marvellous career. Again last week, perhaps playing his last memorable round of golf, Nicklaus expected more of himself than anyone thought possible.

Hatchet man's mission by the sea

The new season starts tomorrow. David Llewellyn meets David Gilbert, the man appointed to sort out Sussex

THE County Ground in Hove may not be the town of Titipu exactly, but it would appear that Sussex County Cricket Club has appointed its own Lord High Executioner. After the previous winter of discontent, when the club finally began to get its administrative house in order, a miserable season followed, which left Sussex at the bottom of the pile in the Championship and Sunday League. It was time to sort things out on the playing front.

Enter stage left Ko-Ko, aka David Gilbert. Sussex's self-styled hatchet man. Having had two highly successful seasons as coach with Surrey, the engaging and deep-thinking former Australian Test fast bowler has discarded his tracksuit for a collar and tie, his baseball mitt for a desk littered with papers and team selection and tactics for a mind brimming with schemes and dreams as director of cricket for Sussex by the sea.

"I have never made a secret of my ambitions on the administrative front," said Gilbert leaning back in his modest office which overlooks the cramped headquarters of one of cricket's less fashionable clubs. "I want to be a chief executive one day. That is always going to be my ambition. I've worked under six different chief executives and I've seen nothing in any of them that makes me feel I can't do the job."

With no opportunity for such a move from playing field to drawing board at Surrey, whom he had taken to the Sunday League title and Benson & Hedges Cup in successive years, Gilbert leapt at the chance offered to him by his former assistant coach at The Oval, Tony "Lester" Pigott.

Now the seniority of the roles is reversed. The former Sussex and Surrey all-rounder Pigott plays Pooh-Bah. Lord High Everything Else, to Gilbert's Mikado role at Hove. "I will be eternally grateful and extremely loyal to Lester for giving me this opportunity," stated Gilbert, reinforcing the sincerity of the words with a particularly intense look.

"Tony's passion for Sussex is just unbelievable. He is almost obsessed with getting this place back on its feet. And I would not have come here if Sussex had been in the Second Division," he added, referring to plans



David Gilbert at Hove this week: 'The club has to get off its backside and look at ways of staying alive... We do not have much time'

Photograph: David Ashdown

which are currently on the back burner to restructure the County Championship.

Gilbert is equally passionate about what he wants to do for Sussex. With Peter Moores coaching the squad, the 37-year-old Gilbert will not get involved on that side of things.

"I don't want to get too close to the players," he announced. "I am at pains to stay very much in the background. Peter is the coach and I don't want to tread on his toes. He has to have the freedom to make of the job what he wants."

"But I'll look after all the player contracts and all the deals with them, but in a way, I've almost got to assume a bit of an ogre role. I think they've got to look at me as the hatchet man. And I'm comfortable with that. It doesn't faze me because if we are not prepared to

make tough decisions here then we will go nowhere. It's as simple as that."

And some of the decisions will most certainly be tough, for players and diehard membership alike. The present size of the squad is 26, Gilbert wants to whittle that down to around 18 or 20 by 1999. And he is prepared to do it.

"The common theme running through county cricket is the lack of tough decision-making. The soft option is taken because people worry about the consequences. They ask themselves, 'How am I going to tell that guy that he is being released?' Or, 'How will he react to being left out of the B&H final etc.' They are not pleasant decisions, I don't enjoy doing it, but it has to be done. Of course the easy way out is not to make them, but then you go

nowhere. They have to be made here because we are wallowing and we have to get out of that trough."

They also want to get out of their present site and a ground share with Brighton and Hove Albion football club looks feasible. "This ground is 125 years old," Gilbert said. "The proposed Northern Stand development here was going to cost five or six million, but it would probably only have increased the capacity by 1,500. I just don't

see the economic sense in that."

The project has been put on ice and the reality is that it will probably never see the light of day, especially now that the membership has accepted the concept of finding a more suitable site for a purpose-built stadium.

At this point Gilbert's imagination took flight. "Why can't this county stage a one-day international," he asked. "Why shouldn't Sussex stage a Test match? If we created the fa-

cilities surely we could aim for that? We have an asset, in that we own this ground. There is also lottery money and an obvious partner, the football club. There are also potential sites which have been identified."

Gilbert added: "There would be adjoining grounds for the football and cricket clubs and with it you could build just about everything and turn the complex into a year-round leisure facility. You could have cinemas, a night-club, bars, shopping arcade, restaurants, a conference centre, a casino and slot machines. It would attract people with no interest in either soccer or cricket, but it could become a centre for social activity, something to which people would want to belong."

He dropped back into hard-

line hatchet man for a moment and said: "The club has to get off its backside and look at ways of staying alive. The concept of two divisions could still be realised in three years or less, so we do not have much time. If we can show that we do mean business then we will survive."

The reality is that we can't keep on propping up 18 counties, and the England and Wales Cricket Board can't go on giving everyone a million quid every year and then having the counties declare a profit when all they have done is spend nine-tenths of that.

"I heard Tony Blair on the radio when he was launching the Millennium Dome and there was one line he said which really appealed to me, it was, 'It takes very little courage to say No to change.' I thought that was so true."

Eager Hussain stakes his claim

NASSER HUSSAIN would relish the challenge of succeeding Mike Atherton as England's captain. "It is a job I would love to do. It's one of the best jobs in British sport but the decision is in the hands of the selectors," the Essex batsman said.

"They have a difficult decision to make and if I don't get it, it wouldn't be the end of the world," the England vice-captain said yesterday. "But it is a challenge I feel up to tactically, and I also understand the players. I've grown up with many of them who are currently in the England squad and know how to handle them and how to get the best out of them."

Asked if he would be disappointed if the England selectors did overlook him for the captain's job, Hussain said: "If you don't get something you want you are bound to feel disappointed. But as I said it won't be the end of the world if I miss out. My main concern is that I am scoring runs for England and if the captaincy comes along I would regard it as a bonus - and a great honour."

Meanwhile, the start of the season is threatening to turn into a damp squib, after this week's two university matches were washed out yesterday.

Rain meant no play was possible at Fenners, where Cambridge University are hosting Northamptonshire, or at The Parks, where Oxford are playing Sussex.

The Fenners's groundsmen, John Moden, was pessimistic about the chances of much play on today's scheduled final day of the three-day match. "The ground is flooded and there's more water than at the weekend. My problem now is to stop it running under the covers on to the pitch," he said.

Weather permitting, the County Championship is due to start tomorrow. Nottinghamshire's England Under-19 seam bowler Paul Franks may be available for their opening match away to their neighbours Derbyshire tomorrow despite undergoing an operation on a badly broken nose yesterday. He suffered multiple fractures of the nose when he edged an attempted knock during a pre-season tour of South Africa.

Scoreboard

First-class matches
No play yesterday (pitch covered).
Today (final day of three): 11.00pm
FENNERS: Northamptonshire 122 for 3 v Cambridge University.
THE PARKS: Sussex 122 for 4 v Oxford University.



chelsea chelsea

chelsea vs vicenza from 7.30pm tonight on 5

مكتبة الامم

Griffiths to break code with Wales

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

CLIVE GRIFFITHS is to renew his relationship with rugby league by coaching the Welsh national side this season and hopes to bring several players back across the narrowing divide with him.

Griffiths, director of coaching at London Welsh rugby union club, will double up by preparing Wales' league side for its matches against England in July and the touring New Zealanders in November. "There is no conflict of interest," Griffiths said. "I had it written into my contract that I could do this if the opportunity arose."

He seems certain to bring the dual international forward, Rowland Phillips, with him, as he has a similar clause in his London Welsh contract. Griffiths will also contact the usual suspects—such as Kevin Ellis, John Devereux, Allan Bateman and the now retired Jonathan Davies—to explore their availability. Even the name of Scott Gibbs has been mentioned, although the recently formed Welsh under-19 rugby league side might prove a more realistic recruiting ground.

It is unfortunate that Wales' match against England at Wembley's new stadium on 19 July clashes with one of Super League's games on the road, when London and Bradford meet in Edinburgh.

The Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe, said that the two matches, which were originally envisaged as a double-header at Watford, would not detract from each other. But it still seems perverse to split the attention on the day of the middle.

If Wales' fixtures are one part of what is billed as the " clash of the Nations", the other is a triangular tournament involving Ireland, Scotland and France in November.

Ireland, coached by the Sal-

ford assistant coach, Steve O'Neill, are to play France, probably at St Patrick's football ground, on 4 November, with France hosting a Scottish team prepared by Wigan's Billy McGinty a week later. Scotland and Ireland meet at Patrick Thistle on 18 November.

The programme could be a precursor to a fully fledged Five Nations tournament, although one theory is that two triangular series, every year, might suit the game's needs better than attempting to ape rugby union's calendar.

Tunncliffe said that he and, when he returns from his holiday, the League's chairman, Sir Rodney Walker, are eager to speak to the First and Second Division Clubs' Association about proposed changes in the game's by-laws. The organisation for clubs outside Super League has expressed alarm at a document that they believe amounts to the League abdicating its governance of the game to Super League.

Richie Blackmore is not to face any further action over apparent use of his elbow on Sonny Nickle during Leeds' victory at Bradford on Sunday. Nickle was sent off in the aftermath of the incident and faces a disciplinary hearing today, but neither Blackmore, who was sent to the sin-bin, nor any other player will have to answer for his part in a rugged clash.

Rochdale have appointed Iain MacCorquodale, their youth development manager and former winger, as caretaker coach following Shane Tupaea's resignation.

Keighley Coppers, who signed the experienced Tongan prop Lee Hansen from Wigan, the forward Paul High-ton is looking for a new club after a Rugby Football League tribunal ruled he could leave Halifax Blue Sox as a free agent after the terms of a contract offered to him by the club were altered.



One of the groundstaff demonstrates attention to detail yesterday, preparing Lokomotiv Moscow's stadium for today's European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final against VfB Stuttgart, who lead 2-1 from the first leg. Photograph: Michael Metz/AP

Scotland do without Newcastle men

Rugby Union

SCOTLAND'S Australian tour plans have been dealt a severe blow with the loss of their Newcastle connection.

The captain and scrum-half Gary Armstrong, the centre Alan Tait, the prop George Graham and the back-row forward Peter Walton have all withdrawn from this summer's trip.

Armstrong's decision to pull out has been agreed with the national coach and director of rugby, Jim Telfer, who said: "Gary has already played 40 games this season. I agreed he would be better taking the time out."

The same applies to Tait, who has played without a break for the last two years. Graham and Walton are injured, as is their club-mate Daddie Weir, who withdrew last month. Halifax's Tony Stanger has also pulled out due to a family matter.

Cayard adds the vital ingredient

Stuart Alexander, in Fort Lauderdale, assesses the qualities that have given EF Language the edge in the Whitbread Race

JUST 10 minutes before the bookie shut up shop in Southampton the night before the start of the 1997-98 Whitbread Race last September, Johan Salen, director of the EF syndicate, placed a bet on his men's crew to be overall winners. He tried to put on more than the £3,000 the man would accept, but even then he could only place £1,000 of that at the quoted odds of 10-1. The rest he took at 10-1.

Now the race has run six of its nine legs and, just as the crew of "Big Red" wrote themselves a special place in the race's history when Sir Peter Blake steered Steinlager to victory in every leg of the 1989-90 race, so there is the looming glow of greatness behind the EF Language crew as they prepare for the seventh leg of the race, from Fort Lauderdale to Baltimore, on Saturday.

They have courted disaster and got away with it. They have blithely told everyone they are just a bunch of rookies and then whipped the old hands.

Some rookies. They have a huge depth of racing talent and savvy, with a philosophy that it is easier for smart day-race sailors to learn the ways of the ocean than for ocean

conclusively faster than many of his rivals, including Silk Cut.

He inherited a sail design programme that included a lot of innovative thinking, and fast sails are very important. Then he brought in his own people and pushed that programme along in his own direction, just as others were doing.

Because of also entering an all-woman team, the EF programme had two identical boats to use for comparative testing. Much of the gear they use is the same as everyone else's. The crew is good, but is no tighter knit than some others. Some would say it is bonded more by expediency than friendship.

Cayard came late to the project and many thought he would always have one eye on his San Francisco America's Cup syndicate, for which he has just secured major support from Hewlett Packard.

However, stability has come from a corporate-style management structure set up by Salen and later maintained by the shore manager, Richard Brisius. Both insist that the budget, believed to be about £11.5m, has been respected. What has made the real difference, according to his peers, is Cayard.

His talent lies not just in leadership, but in an open-mindedness that allowed others to have their say before the decisions were taken. The wise counsel of Magnus Olsson, who was alongside Richard Gillies and Tim Smythe in building a superb pair of boats, has also shone through.

Cayard has also linked an America's Cup-style approach to an ability to learn fast from mistakes, which showed itself when the boat was struggling even to keep going on its baptism of fire on the first southern ocean leg from Cape Town to Fremantle.

This has been treated as a nine-race regatta by Cayard and success is also something on which he felt he could improve. His attitude is: it may not be broke, but maybe it can be fixed for the better. For good measure, the campaign has been a huge sponsorship success for the EF head, Benil Hult. And yes, Salen pre-paid the tax on the bet.

Innovation Kvaerner's sail-maker and key crew member, the Australian Jim Close, was yesterday confined to hospital with pneumonia, leaving a gap for the skipper, Knut Frostad, for Saturday's start of the seventh leg of the Whitbread Race. Frostad was already bringing in Ross Halcrow to join the New York America's Cup skipper, Ed Baird, and yesterday announced that another American, Cam Lewis, would be joining the crew for the three-day sprint to Baltimore.



Cayard: An open-minded leader with a will to win

Sporting Digest

Baseball
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 6, Oakland 0; Baltimore 4, Chicago White Sox 2; Cleveland 3, Seattle 5; Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 2; Toronto 6, Kansas City 1; Texas 1, Detroit 2; Postponed: NY Yankees v Anaheim.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Milwaukee 7, Montreal 1; Atlanta 6, Pittsburgh 0; NY Mets 5, Chicago Cubs 0; St Louis 4, Arizona 3; Colorado 10, Milwaukee 2; Utah 10, Minnesota 3; Port 2, San Francisco 6; Seattle 10, Vancouver 3.

Basketball
NBA: Atlanta 95, Philadelphia 84; Cleveland 85, Boston 86; Toronto 95, New Jersey 82; Washington 104, New York 125; LA Lakers 111, Dallas 95; Houston 94, Denver 88; Charlotte 104, Minnesota 82; Utah 92, Minnesota 92; Port 2, San Francisco 66; Seattle 10, Vancouver 38.

Cricket
Sheena Warner, the Australian leg-spinner, has decided to bowl on for another two weeks even though her knee surgery on a shoulder injury, declaring himself fit for the one-day series against India and New Zealand, starting in Shanghai tomorrow.

Warwickshire are closer to taking over Macclesfield, the cash-strapped rugby union club. The merger is due to be discussed at an extraordinary general meeting on 6 or 7 May.

Meatworks, completed a takeover of the Scottish First Division club, St Mirren.

Austrian Alfred Riedl, 48, has been appointed coach of the Vietnam national side on an eight-month contract, succeeding Colin Murphy and becoming the country's fourth foreign manager in two years.

Hockey
MEMBERS FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT (Melbourne): India 2, Argentina 1; Australia 6, New Zealand 4.

Ice hockey
NHL: Ottawa 3, Florida 2; Washington 3, NY Rangers 1; Phoenix 2, Detroit 1.

Judo
Austria's Thomas Schwab, a silver medalist at the 1996 European Championships, has been arrested in Vienna on charges of possessing cocaine.

Pools dividends
LITTLEWOOD: Treble chance: 22pts; 123456789 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1041 1042 1043 1044 1045 1046 1047 1048 1049 1050 1051 1052 1053 1054 1055 1056 1057 1058 1059 1060 1061 1062 1063 1064 1065 1066 1067 1068 1069 1070 1071 1072 1073 1074 1075 1076 1077 1078 1079 1080 1081 1082 1083 1084 1085 1086 1087 1088 1089 1090 1091 1092 1093 1094 1095 1096 1097 1098 1099 1100 1101 1102 1103 1104 1105 1106 1107 1108 1109 1110 1111 1112 1113 1114 1115 1116 1117 1118 1119 1120 1121 1122 1123 1124 1125 1126 1127 1128 1129 1130 1131 1132 1133 1134 1135 1136 1137 1138 1139 1140 1141 1142 1143 1144 1145 1146 1147 1148 1149 1150 1151 1152 1153 1154 1155 1156 1157 1158 1159 1160 1161 1162 1163 1164 1165 1166 1167 1168 1169 1170 1171 1172 1173 1174 1175 1176 1177 1178 1179 1180 1181 1182 1183 1184 1185 1186 1187 1188 1189 1190 1191 1192 1193 1194 1195 1196 1197 1198 1199 1200 1201 1202 1203 1204 1205 1206 1207 1208 1209 1210 1211 1212 1213 1214 1215 1216 1217 1218 1219 1220 1221 1222 1223 1224 1225 1226 1227 1228 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 1234 1235 1236 1237 1238 1239 1240 1241 1242 1243 1244 1245 1246 1247 1248 1249 1250 1251 1252 1253 1254 1255 1256 1257 1258 1259 1260 1261 1262 1263 1264 1265 1266 1267 1268 1269 1270 1271 1272 1273 1274 1275 1276 1277 1278 1279 1280 1281 1282 1283 1284 1285 1286 1287 1288 1289 1290 1291 1292 1293 1294 1295 1296 1297 1298 1299 1300 1301 1302 1303 1304 1305 1306 1307 1308 1309 1310 1311 1312 1313 1314 1315 1316 1317 1318 1319 1320 1321 1322 1323 1324 1325 1326 1327 1328 1329 1330 1331 1332 1333 1334 1335 1336 1337 1338 1339 1340 1341 1342 1343 1344 1345 1346 1347 1348 1349 1350 1351 1352 1353 1354 1355 1356 1357 1358 1359 1360 1361 1362 1363 1364 1365 1366 1367 1368 1369 1370 1371 1372 1373 1374 1375 1376 1377 1378 1379 1380 1381 1382 1383 1384 1385 1386 1387 1388 1389 1390 1391 1392 1393 1394 1395 1396 1397 1398 1399 1400 1401 1402 1403 1404 1405 1406 1407 1408 1409 1410 1411 1412 1413 1414 1415 1416 1417 1418 1419 1420 1421 1422 1423 1424 1425 1426 1427 1428 1429 1430 1431 1432 1433 1434 1435 1436 1437 1438 1439 1440 1441 1442 1443 1444 1445 1446 1447 1448 1449 1450 1451 1452 1453 1454 1455 1456 1457 1458 1459 1460 1461 1462 1463 1464 1465 1466 1467 1468 1469 1470 1471 1472 1473 1474 1475 1476 1477 1478 1479 1480 1481 1482 1483 1484 1485 1486 1487 1488 1489 1490 1491 1492 1493 1494 1495 1496 1497 1498 1499 1500 1501 1502 1503 1504 1505 1506 1507 1508 1509 1510 1511 1512 1513 1514 1515 1516 1517 1518 1519 1520 1521 1522 1523 1524 1525 1526 1527 1528 1529 1530 1531 1532 1533 1534 1535 1536 1537 1538 1539 1540 1541 1542 1543 1544 1545 1546 1547 1548 1549 1550 1551 1552 1553 1554 1555 1556 1557 1558 1559 1560 1561 1562 1563 1564 1565 1566 1567 1568 1569 1570 1571 1572 1573 1574 1575 1576 1577 1578 1579 1580 1581 1582 1583 1584 1585 1586 1587 1588 1589 1590 1591 1592 1593 1594 1595 1596 1597 1598 1599 1600 1601 1602 1603 1604 1605 1606 1607 1608 1609 1610 1611 1612 1613 1614 1615 1616 1617 1618 1619 1620 1621 1622 1623 1624 1625 1626 1627 1628 1629 1630 1631 1632 1633 1634 1635 1636 1637 1638 1639 1640 1641 1642 1643 1644 1645 1646 1647 1648 1649 1650 1651 1652 1653 1654 1655 1656 1657 1658 1659 1660 1661 1662 1663 1664 1665 1666 1667 1668 1669 1670 1671 1672 1673 1674 1675 1676 1677 1678 1679 1680 1681 1682 1683 1684 1685 1686 1687 1688 1689 1690 1691 1692 1693 1694 1695 1696 1697 1698 1699 1700 1701 1702 1703 1704 1705 1706 1707 1708 1709 1710 1711 1712 1713 1714 1715 1716 1717 1718 1719 1720 1721 1722 1723 1724 1725 1726 1727 1728 1729 1730 1731 1732 1733 1734 1735 1736 1737 1738 1739 1740 1741 1742 1743 1744 1745 1746 1747 1748 1749 1750 1751 1752 1753 1754 1755 1756 1757 1758 1759 1760 1761 1762 1763 1764 1765 1766 1767 1768 1769 1770 1771 1772 1773 1774 1775 1776 1777 1778 1779 1780 1781 1782 1783 1784 1785 1786 1787 1788 1789 1790 1791 1792 1793 1794 1795 1796 1797 1798 1799 1800 1801 1802 1803 1

Vialli's tactics are crucial for Chelsea

Football

By Trevor Haylett

THE learning curve moves nearer the vertical with every passing week for Gianluca Vialli, who tonight must ensure that Chelsea do not become impaled on the dilemma of needing to attack in their European Cup-Winners' Cup tie at Stamford Bridge against Vicenza without leaving the back door vulnerable to an away goal.

With general agreement that

the containing tactics were misplaced in Italy two weeks ago, the pressure is on Vialli to get it right this time. One false move and Chelsea will be semi-final losers in Europe for the second time in four seasons.

Looked at another way, if he can come up with the strategy to overturn Vicenza's 1-0 lead Vialli will have guided his team to a second cup final in the nine weeks since succeeding Roud Gullit. And to think that 12 months ago his only problem was how to keep warm on the bench.

"We have to score but on the other hand we can't afford to take too many risks against a team as smart and dangerous as Vicenza," the Chelsea player-manager said.

"They will come here to defend with great organisation so we must be the best Chelsea of the season if we want to turn the match around."

Patience will be important. "We only need one goal and we are back in the game. That can come five minutes from the end via a deflection or a corner-kick."

With Chelsea needing to score, the absence of Roberto Di Matteo through suspension could yet prove damaging to English hopes. The Italian midfielder is capable of producing goals from unlikely situations such as the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg, when the Stamford Bridge side also started a goal down to Arsenal.

His misfortune could be to Gustavo Poyet's advantage. The Uruguayan has made a timely return to fitness after a serious

knee injury and he scored in four of his 11 games earlier in the season.

At least Di Matteo is free to play in the final should Chelsea succeed. Eight of his team-mates share the predicament of knowing one more caution will rule them out of the Stockholm final on 13 May. Vicenza have seven players in the same situation.

Gianfranco Zola is one player who will be treading on eggshells, though he is surely dainty-footed enough to escape trouble and is more concerned

about his position in the side. The others, and likely Chelsea starters tonight, are Dan Petrescu, Frank Leboeuf, Poyet, Dennis Wise, and Michael Duberry.

For the away leg Zola was asked to plough a wider furrow compared to the central acres he prefers. He accepts it was a task tailored to the demands of the team but adds: "The manager knows playing in that position I could not give my best. I think for this game he will ask me to play in my normal role."

As always in football, tomorrow arrives before we have finished with today and Vialli does not hide the fact that he is already looking ahead to next season and the challenge for the Premiership.

"If we win the Cup-Winners' Cup it'll be another step towards winning the League," he said. "We started the season with the FA Cup, we have now collected the Coca-Cola Cup and have the chance to add a European trophy. Then we will be ready to win the League because it has to be done step by step."

cause it has to be done step by step.

That process, naturally, also includes introducing new faces, though Vialli discounts a move for Vicenza's Pasquale Luiso, saying that the striking department is one area he does not need to strengthen. He also added that any newcomers will have to show that they are better than the current squad "which looking at our team will be very difficult". Tonight is a wonderful stage for his players to prove the wisdom of those words.

Big pay rises in the Premiership

By Mark Bradley

PREMIERSHIP players received bumper pay rises of 35 per cent last season - and their wages are soon set to rocket even higher, according to a new report into the finances of the game.

While many fans, who pay increasingly inflated ticket prices, have their salary increases pegged near the inflation rate of just 2.6 per cent, the stars of the Premier League are receiving rises that even private sector "fat cats" would be proud of.

Over the past four years, the total amount spent on players' wages by Premier League clubs has soared from £54m in the 1992-93 season to a massive £135m last season - an increase of 250 per cent.

Obviously not all players are receiving the same pay packets as Dennis Bergkamp, Alan Shearer and Gianfranco Zola. For while Manchester United's wage bill for playing and non-playing staff amounted to a

staggering £22.5m last season - up 70 per cent from the year before as they began to sign up their young stars on long-term deals - Southampton's overall pay-out was £4.78m.

Yet the average wage bill for all 20 Premiership clubs was still £10.67m, meaning that even with 50 people sharing it equally, they would each have received an annual salary of £200,000.

The report, by the accountants Deloitte and Touche, concluded that wages were set to soar even higher due to the impact of the Bosman ruling as out-of-contract stars could demand higher salaries when they were available on free transfers.

The consolation for Premiership clubs is that their overall operating profits increased by 32 per cent from £344m in 1996 to £455m last season and the new BSkyB TV deal - bringing in a further £693m over the next four years - will be crucial.

Yet although Manchester United are in a financial league

of their own and account for 20 per cent of the Premiership's total turnover - their figure of £87.9m is more than double of nearest challengers Newcastle - other clubs are clearly struggling.

In the 1996-97 season, only Manchester United and Liverpool made operating profits before transfer spending of more than £10m, while Blackburn, Coventry and Nottingham Forest actually lost money.

Overall, the 20 clubs in the Premier League that season made a pre-tax loss of £9.4m on a combined turnover of £455.4m - admittedly an improvement from a loss of £59.2m the year before but only due to a £50m advance on the new BSkyB deal.

The financial nightmare that relegation to the First Division now entails meant that while the clubs finishing in the top 10 places last season spent a total of £33m on transfers, those in the bottom half actually shelled out a massive £55m between them.



Internazionale's Brazilian international Ronaldo, well wrapped up against the cold of Moscow, beats Spartak's Dimitri Adankov

Photograph: EPA

Hoddle may lose McManaman

By Rupert Metcalf

STEVE McMANAMAN is a major fitness doubt for England's friendly with Portugal next Wednesday at Wembley.

However, the Liverpool forward will report for international duty regardless of whether he is fit to play for the Anfield club on Sunday at Coventry. McManaman played with an ankle injury in Monday's 2-1 Premiership victory over Crystal Palace - making the winning goal for David Thompson - but has been under intensive treatment since then.

Liverpool's manager, Roy Evans, said: "We took a chance with Steve against Palace and just about got away with it. He

was doubtful right up to the kick-off, and his ankle is still very sore."

England's manager, Glenn Hoddle, has warned his players that they would be "foolish" to pull out of the squad in case it jeopardises their chances of making the World Cup party.

Darren Eadie has withdrawn from the England B squad for Tuesday's friendly against Russia B at Loftus Road. The Norwich City winger has been ruled out for the rest of the season with a fractured cheekbone sustained during the 5-0 victory over Huddersfield on Monday.

But Ferdinand, who came on as a substitute for Armstrong

against Coventry, has pleaded with his colleagues to pull together ahead of the crucial game at Barnsley on Saturday. If Spurs lose at Oakwell, they will replace the Yorkshiremen in the bottom three.

"Because of the situation we are in at the moment, nobody wants to come off no matter how well or badly you are doing," Ferdinand said. "I don't know if there is a rift - it's just everyone wants to play no matter what club you are at."

"Sometimes words are said to the manager but, because of

the position we are in at the moment, they are blown out of all proportion."

Wigan Athletic want to sign Steve Bruce and give him his first taste of management. The former Manchester United captain is being lined up to join the Second Division club, who are backed by the multi-millionaire, Dave Whelan.

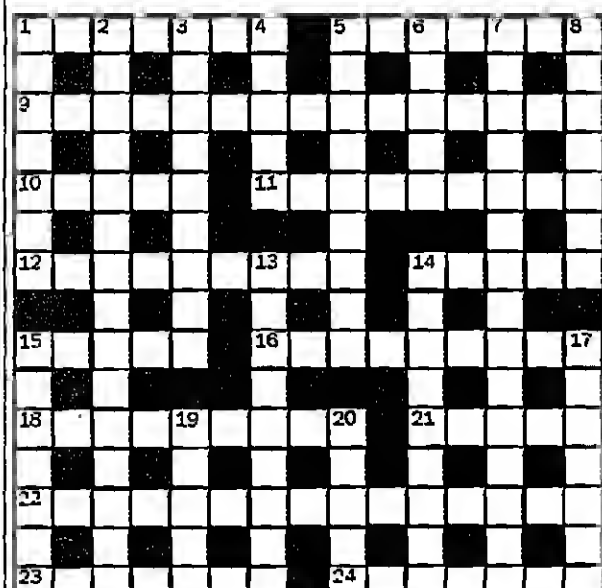
"Bruce is out of contract at Birmingham City this summer. He played with Wigan's manager, John Deehan, at Norwich and the pair could form a managerial partnership at the ambitious Springfield Park club. The Scottish League yesterday confirmed its support for the new Scottish Premiership, due to start next season."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3586, Thursday 16 April

By Spens

Wednesday's solution



WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION
HARLEIGH CASTLE
FIREWORKS
INTEGRATE
CANON
XMAS
SMILE
EGG
GREAT
TUNING
NATIONAL
SILE
BRITAIN
TREASON
LEU
GIE
ELECTRA
DREAMED
HIT
EPP
STOIC
CROOK
STILL
TWO
AS
SO
THAT
NONET
HISTORIAN
GET
TIT
UCE
PRECIPITATION

ACROSS

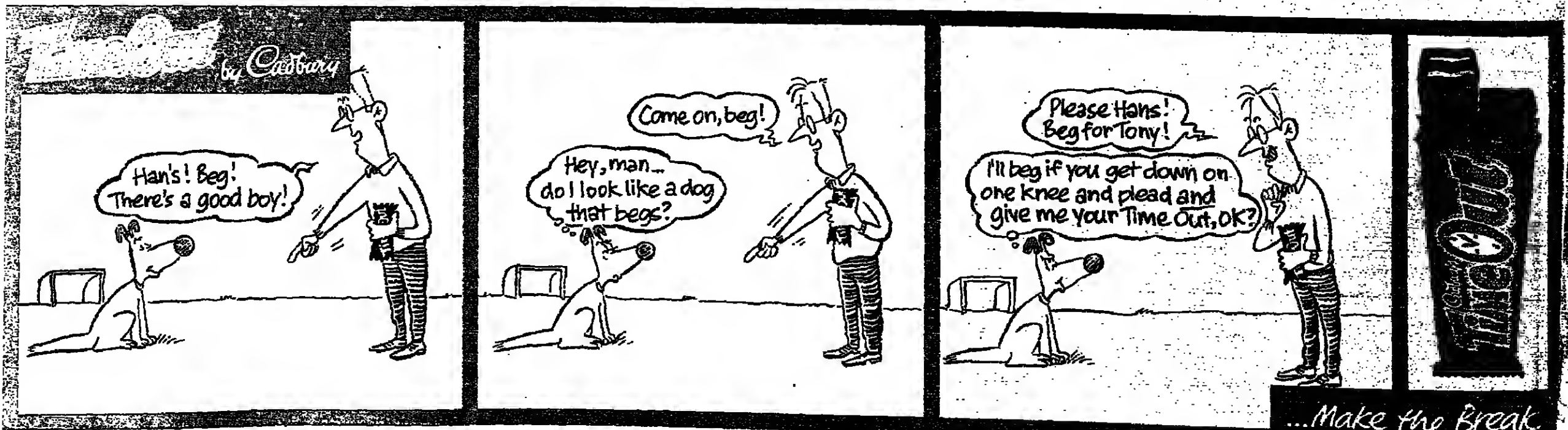
- 1 Approve Article 251, just before the end (7)
- 5 Hide article in left ear (7)
- 9 Enlisted in army - clerical branch? (6-2-7)
- 10 Fear doctor initially lost head (5)
- 11 Hot puree: must be prepared before noon or immediately afterwards (9)
- 12 English and Poles entering French class in morning break (4)
- 14 Poem discovered in Abu Simbel, Egypt (5)
- 15 Separate craft in which Father's conveyed (5)
- 16 Model of quadruped (tailless) associated with German author (9)

DOWN

- 1 Running Wolf, great western feature at the end of the day (9)
- 2 Jelly with a piquant flavour, almost (5)
- 3 Just one or two reds left? (7-8)
- 4 Small reservoir supplying domestic needs? (7)
- 5 Long-accepted solution for conjunctivitis? (4-3)
- 6 Deem a spinner to have dug out England's opener? (7)
- 7 Great wall-light? (7-8)
- 8 Correction - last word must go to chaps in data transmission (9)
- 9 Stage "Equus" (5)
- 10 Wales soon suffers in time of reduced economic activity (3-6)

Across

- 6 Boron found in adjutant's stomach (5)
- 7 He'll succeed if he isn't moved down the order (4-11)
- 8 Following in Father's footsteps, by George? (7)
- 13 Person approaching pie-man without penny a hindrance? He was (9)
- 14 Lift shown in architect's drawing? (9)
- 15 Australian came in looking shivery and washed-out (7)
- 17 French negative about endless ticket problem - something we've got to wear? (7)
- 19 Hoist is supporting article brought in by engineers (5)
- 20 Women give assistance to youngster (5)



مكتبة الأحرار